SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: I want a positive response from the Government. I wish that this report is wrong. I wish that there was no scandal of defence purchases. But there has been a scandal in defence purchases as well. I can give you the CAG report also. I have associated myself with the hon. Member on the Siachen issue. I supported you, Mr. Ahluwalia. You referred to internal problems as well as external problems. You referred to external pressure from U.S.A., arms obtained by Pakistan and all that. I said that internally we should be prepared for that. You left that question unanswered. I answered that question.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have to adjourn the House for lunch. So, we can only expect the Government to take note of the serious matter regarding defence of the country raised here. Whatever action the Government wants to take on this, it will take.

The House is adjourned for lunch for one hour.

The House then adjourned for lunch at seven minutes past one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at nine minutes past two of the clock **The Vice-Chairman (Shri Md. Salim)** in the Chair.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): Now Shri P. Chidambaram is to withdraw the Companies Bill, 1993.

THE COMPANIES BILL, 1993

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, I beg to move for leave to withdraw the Companies Bill, 1993.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I withdraw the Bill.

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): Now Shri P. Chidambaram is to introduce the Companies (Amendment) Bill, 1996.

THE COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1996

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Companies Act, 1996.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): Now, we will continue with the discussion on the working of the Ministry of Power.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): Shri Prem Chand Gupta; not here. Shri Brahmakumar Bhatt; not here. Shri Dipankar Mukherjee, Smt. Urmilaben Chimanbhai Patel wants to go for a meeting, she will speak before you speak.

DISCUSSION ON THE WORKING OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (Contd.)

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL (Gujarat): Mr. Vice-Chairman Sir, I would like to make some observations on the working of the Power Ministry. Power is the life-line of today's world. Without power there is no economic development. It is a basic infrastructural facility for the growth of agriculture, industrial development and employment generation. Now-a-days rural development also depends on the availability of power. On the other hand, we are facing actute power shortage due to heavily increasing demand and less avilability of power. We face frequent power cuts announced or unannounced, planned or unplanned. The fact remains that it hampers the progress of our nation.

According to an assessment of the Power Department in the 9th Plan period we would be required to add at lest 10,000 MW of additional power per year to meet our requirements. Looking to the availability of planned allocation of funds and financial constraints, we targeted to produce 30,000 MW of power as against the requirement of 48,000 MW and in reality we are able to produce only 13,000 to 14,000 MW during the four years of the 8th Plan period. I feel sorry to say that if the same methodology of the Department of Power continues, then we will be facing a severe power crisis in the 9th Plan period where we have targeted 7.5% to 8% of the economic growth. All our planning will go to dogs and there will be insufficient development leaving the economy and nation in total chaos. So, the Department as well as Power Minister and the Prime Minister should take serious note of the situation and take drastic steps to change the functioning of the Department. The criteria should be result-oriented, time-bound action plan. To add to the energy production and to overcome the financial constraints, the previous Government had put up the policy of privatisation of power projects and there was a tremendous response to the new policy. But, due to some State Government's decision to review the fast track projects in the name of transparency, the policy got a little setback No doubt, transparency, should be observed and that is why, in the revised policy competitive bidding process was made compulsory. But the real issue is what should be done to revitalise the policy and encourage more power generation.

The main issue, to my mind, is of gestation period. It takes four to five years to sanction a power project and three to four years to build a thermal power plant. It takes five to seven years in the case of hydel power projects. It means it takes seven to ten years to come to power generation. Some drastic steps have to be taken to synchronise this long period. In order to minimise the time require and the harassment to the entrepreneur, single window clearance system should be accepted. Simultaneous clearances by different Ministries should be encouraged. Each Department should be asked to clear projects in a particular time limit. The entrepreneurs should be asked to give time-bound construction programmes. If they fail to implement it in a prescribed time-limit, a penalty clause should be applied.

Due to lengthy period and different types of hindrances, the project cost goes up. In some cases, it goes up four to ten times. Is it not a loss to the nation? Who is responsible for this loss? In order to settle disputes tribunals should be set up and their awards should be implemented by the concerned parties. In no case should the construction work be allowed to stop. We should take care that the cost of the project remains the minimum so that we can provide cheap power to the common man. The paying capacity of the consumer should be constantly kept before our eyes. The agricultural and industrial sector will also be benefited by this cheap power. It is our misfortune that in our country we have concentrated more only on thermal power. There is a need to balance both. We are having a total potential of about 84,000 MW hydel power and we are able to exploit only 25 to 26 per cent of the available capacity. Unfortunately, most of our hydel projects are under dispute. It is a disservice to the nation. The elements which hinder the projects are working against the national interest. A public opinion should be cultivated against such negative forces in our society.

Coming to the theremal power projects, the problem faced by them is of timely availability of coal and its quality, theft of coal and availability of rakes. The coal mines should be pressurised to put up coal washeries and steps should be taken to minimise coal theft. The transmission of coal adds a lot to the cost of power per unit. Power generation at the collieries can also be one of the

solutions. It will be cheaper and easier to transmit power then to transmit coal.

I would like to lay stress on coordination among all the concerned Ministries, say, Petroleum, Coal, Railway, Nuclear Energy, Planning, Finance, Environment and Forests, etc. The Secretaries of these Ministries should meet every month to discuss and solve the issues. The Ministers should also meet at least twice in a year to discuss the common issues. Coordination among various Ministries and Departments will resolve so many issues.

Another way to save power is to reduce the transmission and distribution losses which come to 20 to 22 per cent. The target to decrease the losses was one per cent each year. But, it has not been fully achieved. Use of modern transmitting technology can minimise these losses. But, the SEBs who handle transmission and distribution are in a very poor financial position. As our leader, Chavan Saheb, pointed out yesterday, the main reason for this situation is not the non-receiving of tariffs from the consumers. I think the tariff collection can be privatised.

The S.E. Bs. should be fully supported by the department to make available R.B.I. long-term loans at a low rate of interest or P.F.C. loans. The P.F.C. reduce the interest rate by subsidising the same. We can also raise power generation by improving P.L.F. We should recognise that N.T.P.C. has done a good job in this field. But the State Thermal Power Projects are functioning at a very low P.L.F. S.E.Bs. should be encouraged, through different schemes, for modernising the old power plants and to improve the generation. Moreover, on the one side, we are worried about the financial constraints while on the other side there are huge amounts of foreign aid unutilised. We are paying the interest without taking benefits and many a time return back the amount due to non-fulfilment of the commitments. An agency should be established to take care of the unutilised financial aid and find out ways and means to resolve the underlying problems.

Sir, the Rural Electrification Programme directly reaches to people, the common man and the poorer people of our society. So, more concentration should be on these programmes and enough resources should be provided for these programmes. In the Rural Electrification Corporation, M.Ps. and private members should be included to give it a popular touch.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD SALIM): Madam, you have to conclude.

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Yes. I am concluding, Sir. Before I finish, I would like to give one example about the working of one of the corporation i.e., Damodar Valley Corporation. I do not find fault either with the corporation or with its officials but it is only an example as to how the work is going on. In the Damodar Valley Corporation the manpower employed is approximately 17,000 and as on today it has only one project on hand, which can be handled by 3,000 or 4,000 personnel. If we cannot retrench them, then some new project should be identified so that all the manpower is properly utilised. But nobody worries about the same, Thus, a lot has to be done to make the Power Departments more functional. If we do not improve our bureaucratic ways and means of functioning, there will be a tremendous power shortage in the whole nation during the Ninth Plan period. It will be a total chaos in the country. Economic development will get hampered and what not. And we will be dragged back some decades for which the future generation will not pardon us. So, I hope the Prime Minister with his Common Minimum Programme and development-oriented outlook, will take special care of the infrastructural priorities such as power and evolve and generate More Power drive in the department. Thank you, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): Shri Dipankar Mukherjee.

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE (West Bengal); Thank you, Sir Before I start, I would refer to yesterday's Finance Minister's repply to the Budget debate where he had correctly pointed out that in the infrastructure sector, the growth in power sector has been very discouraging i.e., 2.7% in April and July. The growth has been very poor. This was quite understandable. It has not happened all of a sudden. I think, during the midterm plan review itself it was clearly know to the Parliament that we are lagging behind so far as the capacity addition to the power sector is concerned. Sir, I quote from the Fourth Standing Committee Report on Energy on Demands for Grants for 1996-97. This has been placed in the Parliament a few days back:

> "The Committee are concerned about the failure to achieve the approved target of capacity addition during the Eighth Five Year Plan Period....The Ministry attributed this failure to the resource crunch and to the attitude of most of the State Governments who, thinking that investment in this sector would be forthcoming from the private sector, did not allocate sufficient funds of their own for generation of electricity. But the high expectations from the private sector did not materialise and the plan programme was adversely affected."

So, naturally, when money was not added for power, we connot expect that this year all of a sudden there would be a growth in power generation. This is the basic assumption on which I proceed further.

Now, what did happen in the Eigth Plan? When a whole new power policy is started--and in any sector, so to say, whether it is power, industry, anything--there has to be an analysis. We are having a power crisis, we are having a new policy for power; so we will have to analyse what are our strengths, what are our weakness, what are the opportunities, what are the threats--in short, a "SWOT analysis." What we did all these years, I am afraid, is we did only a weakness and opportunity analysis.

What are our weaknesses? They are very well known. We were told our weaknesses are,(1) we have an acute power shortage, and (2) unviable, inefficient, absolutely unworkable and worthiless SEBs. These are the well publicised weaknesses. The whole of the country knows. Them. What is the third weakness we have? We do not have money. Capital crunch! This too is known to the country.

What are the opportunities and how to improve them? They were also very openly and very often pointed out. The opportunities, as the Government envisages in the new policy, were foreign investments and IPPs--independent power producers. That is how we will add to our capacity.

This is no multi-dimensional approach. The power sector has multi-dimensional aspects. It is not a undimensional thing. What you said was, there is no power, the SEBs are useless, we must have new power plants, get some money from outside, money is available, machines are available, and the power problem will be solved. And we started terms like fast-track power projects, this and that.

I hope that before we analyse the power sector and before we try to do something, the new Government will definitely have in mind what are our strengths and what are the threats. These have never come before the public eye. That has been the tragedy.

What are our strengths? This country has an installed capacity, as the Power Department says, of about 84,000 megawatts. When we became independent in 1947, our installed capacity was only 1,362 megawatts. From 1,362 megawatts we reached 84, 000 or 85,000 megawatts! How much has come

from the much-maligned public sector, or State sector and how much has the private sector? I think, roughly, the private sector would not be having more than five per cent. So, from 1,362 megawatts we increased our installed capacity to 85,000 megawatts. This has been our strength. We have one of the strongest electrical networks in the world. I am giving the figure. So far as the size of electrical networks in the whole world is concerned, we come after America, Russia, Japan, China, Germany, Canada, France and Indonesia. Indonesia is the eighth, with an installed capacity of 88,000 megawatts. We come after Indonesia and we are having the ninth biggest electrical system in the world. It is not our strength?

How have we achieved this?; This means, we have achieved most of this through indigenous manufacturing capabilities, through our own scientific manpower. This is our strength.

What are our opportunities? When we talk about opportunities, it is being said that foreign money is available. But this opportunity is not an opportunity only for us. This opportunity is also for the international power plant manufacturers.

What is the global market? Where do we stand? Sir, it is not an one-sided thing. It is not as if some people have become benevolent towards us and, therefore, they want to give money. They want to give money. At the same time, they want to sell their machineries also. They want to sell their machineries to us.

As far as the global market is concerned, for power generation equipment, as per some figures, it is annually 73,166 MW. This is the global market. In this global market, where do we stand? There are fifteen countires who would have a share of 78 per cent of this market. We are one of them. These people are interested in selling their machinery. As I said, it is a two-way traffic; it is not a one-way traffic. If we are interested in capital investment for the power plants here, they are also interested, because of the opportunities provided by the global market, in selling their machinery.

This is an opportunity to us, so far as our indigenous manufacturing capability is not under attack. After fulfilling our capacity utilisation *vis-a-vis* our indigenous manufacturing capability, *i.e.* the BHEL, if this thing comes, it is an opportunity. But if it is at the cost of our indigenous manufacturing capability, it is a threat; it is an attack.

Therefore, I say that an analysis has to be made. When we go in for new power plants, when the power policy is formulated, we have to take this into consideration.

What is our strength in regard to our fuel resource? No power plants can be set up, no theremal power plants can be set up, without fuel. What is our strength, so far as our fuel resource, *i.e.* coal, or, is concerned? What is the position in regard to coal? Coal is not good. Do you have a technology to burn the bad coal? Are there not technologies available in this country, or globally, to burn the bad coal? So far as this source of energy is concerned, i.e. coal, is it a threat to us; or, is it an opportunity to us? Is it necessary that I have to get every fuel from out-side, ignoring the fuel availability in the country? This kind of an analysis has not been done. There is no integrated fuel policy in relation to power projects.

One of the biggest threats is this. We are talking about SEBs. Now, I would like to put a specific question to the hon. Minister. Mr. Minister, this is the question I would like to put. I may be wrong. You can correct me if I am wrong. Is it not a threat to us? There are a lot of things being said. Urmilaji talked about these fast track power projects coming up. She said that some elements are disturbing the process, in the name of transparency, cost, and other things. Here, I would like to ask: is it not a threat? We are a resource-starved country. Capital crunch is there. We are a

capital-starved country. If I belong to a capital-starved country, is cost of power not important to me? One of the threats which is very much visible from these fast track power projects is that the cost of power is going up. We are talking about bundling or unbundling of the SEBs. This is the expression being used; 'bundling' or 'unbundling'; whatever it is. World Bank reports are there. There are certain SEBs. The question I wanted to put is related to this. Is my information correct? Is there a World Bank consultant's report on UPSEB? If there is such a report, I would like to know whether, in that report, it has been recommened that domestic power should be sold at the rate of Rs. 5/- per unit; and agricultural power probably, Rs. 3.50 per unit? This is the cost proposed. It it a fact or not? Sir, we are talking about States. When we are talking about States, all of us have come from the States; none of us have come from outside; from America or somewhere else. When we are talking about States and what they are doing, we must say: 'We are also from the States; therefore, we have to decide'. Now, the important question is: is power going to become only a commercial commodity? Or, is it an instrument of State policy?

If this is the power tariff which has been recommended by the World Bank, is it acceptable to all of us? If it is acceptable, the U.P. election is there, please go there and say, "This is a commercial, very viable power tariff which we want to impose on the people. You must support us." I want to know whether the World Bank report figure given by me is correct or not. What tariff have they suggested? The threat of the cost is the threat we perceive. I am sure the whole House will join me in perceiving the threat.

I am giving another figure. In the Sixth Plan we added 14,226 megawatts. The cost per megawatt was Rs. 1.35 crores. In the Seventh Plan we added 21,401 megawatts. The cost per megawatt was Rs. 1.60 crores. In the Eighth Plan we have added roughly 18,000 megawatts. Do you know the cost? The cost is roughly Rs. 4.0 crores to Rs. 4.5 crores. We find that within a span of four years it has jumped triply. Is it not a cause of concern to all of us? Is it not a cause of concern to any of us? Has it been projected anywhere? How has the cost gone up in this way from the Seventh Plan to the Eighth Plan? This is the question. You think of only fast-track projects.

What is a fast-track project? How much power are you going to add through fast-track projects? How much power has been added through fast- track projects? If I am not mistaken, they have identified 8 fast-track power projects which will be adding hardly 5,000 megawatts. What is the planning? You wanted to add 28,000 megawatts. And what is a fast-track project?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): You have to conclude very fast.

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Sixteen minutes are there. You want to go on a fast track. थोड़ा सा बोलने दीजिए तो अच्छा होगा।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री मोहम्मद सलीम): फर्स्ट प्लान से एट्थ प्लान तक चले जाए।

†[श्री मोहम्मद सलीम: فرسٹ پلان سے ایٹتھ پلان تک چلے جائے۔]

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: I have come to the Ninth Plan. I have come to the fast-track project? What is the definition of a fast-track project? I want all of us to know this. What is a fast-track project? We have heard of it so much. I find that even our new Government is also sometimes talking about clearance of fast-track projects. I met our Power Secretary. he is a very knowledgeable gentleman. He knows things and

†[ ] Transliteration in Arabic Script.

presents them very correctly. This is 36th Standing Committee reports on energy. This was presented to Parliament in March, 1996.

What is a fast-track project? The Ministry of Power informed us on 29.8.95, "Any project which progresses fast is considered to be on the fast track, and its progress is monitored closely." So, any project which progresses fast is a fast-track project. Do I want any project to go slow? Then, what is a fast-track project? Initially they were eight or nine. They were linked with the counter-guarantee business. I do not want to go into the counter-guarantee business. Okay, you give the counter-guarantee for whatever reason it is, but do not call all these names. Then, ultimately, they said, "They are not only 8, but at present we have a list of 16 fast-track projects." The other day I read in a newspaper that 134 power projects were fast-track projects. You said like that. It does not matter. These are all normal projects. There is a period for completion of any project, whether it is theremal or gas-based or hydro. It is four of five years. It has to be completed within the time.

So far as the counter-guarantee part is concerned, I leave it. We are again talking about counter-guarantee. Even the Prime Minister is found to be busy in clarifying this. Giving counter-guarantee to eight fast-track power projects is not going to solve the power problem of this country. Whatever you say, whether the deficit is 28,000 megawatts or 20,000 megawatts, this is not going to solve the problem. This will solve part of the problem, but this is not the only problem. Do not have a single-track mind of fast-track projects. There has to be a multidimentional approach to the problem.

I come to the weaknesses. As they said, these are the weaknesses. We are facing the power shortage. The power shortage is there because the deficit is there.

I am again quoting this time from the Tata Energy Research Report (TERI). In 1985-86, the average energy deficit was 7.9 per cent. In 1990-91, it was 7.9, in 1991-92 it was 7.8, in 1992-93 it was 8.4, in 1993-94 it was 7.3. So far as the peak shortage is concerned, in 1990-91, it was 3.6 per cent, in 1991-92 it was 6.5 per cent, in 1992-93 it was 8.1 per cent, in 1993-94 it was 8.1 per cent and in 1994-95 it was 8.1 per cent. What I am trying to say is that so far as the average shortage or base load shortage is concerned, that has been more or less constant. It is the peaking shortage, about which there has been a row and this has been verying from 14 per cent to 20 per cent during the last seven or eight years. That means, whatever demand has grown in this country, you have been able to cater to that to some extent, but the deficit remains as it is. This was a problem. But, this is not a problem which has come up all of a sudden. (Time-bell) I had 15 minutes, but, I suppose, I took only ten minutes.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): You had 16 minutes and you have successfully exhausted them. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: So, this eight per cent deficit was there, but there was no point in pushing the panic button in 1991-92. The power shortage was there and power shortage is there, but there was no point in pushing the panic button the way it was pressed in 1991-92, because this power deficit does not merely centred around the generation. There are other aspects also. You did not differentiate. On that point also I was asking the hon. Minister. There is one thing which is known as peaking load shortage. I want to explain this because here you did talk of plant load factor. Let us talk of plant availability factor. Plant load factor depends on the load you give. Now, in Maharashtra you have got ENRON. You may have all the machines working and you may give them the power. But in the night time, in the off-peak period, you have to back it

down. You have to stop those machines because in the night there is no demand. So, the plant load factor immediately comes down. So, the plant load factor does not depend only on the availability of machines. The plant load factor also depends on the load, how much load you have to give. So far as the peaking load is concerned, the best way to take care of it is the hydel plants, not the thermal plants that you are adding on one by one without thinking of increasing the base load. The World Bank had objected to ENRON only on one issue. It said that was not a solution to the Maharashtra power scenario, where actually the peak load has to be taken care of, not the base load. By adding on thermal plants or the gas turbines, you are only increasing the base load, peaking load shortage remaining, because you are not adding on hydro power plants. No focus has been there on them for the last five years. The focus has been only on the thermal generation for the reasons very well known to them. If it is the peaking power shortage, then our solution would be different from looking to the specific base load problem. Has it been identified as to how much is the peaking load? What are the types of load? The whole financial problem, which has come into the power sector is because of subsidies. There is a cross subsidy between industry and agriculture.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): You have to conclude now. No more subsidy. Please conclude.

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: When the industrial load pattern has changed, today in the 9th Plan, they are envisaging that instead of 70 per cent industial load, your industrial load will be 47 per cent. Your domestic load is increasing at the rate of 15 per cent. That means you are going to have a peaking power demand, not base power, for which you are asking for all sorts of thermal power plants. If that is the case, so far as subsidy is concerned, so far as tariff is concerned, a priority decision has to be taken by the officials of the Ministry in consultation with the officials of the State Electricity Board.

Policy prescription as an instrument of the State and it has to be made commercially viable just as you are making the REC and others commercially viable. Sir, every village is supposed to be electrified. After a village is electrified, you cannot see its viability so far as payment of tariff is concerned. If one electrically connected pole is there outside the village, the village has to be declared electrified. The State has to pay back the money with interest. So, who pays for the commercial viability of that village? The State has to pay for it. Afterwards you would say that State electricity Boards are useless and they are not commercially viable. So far as commercial viability is concerned, it has to be very specifically mentioned. It has to be very, very, specifically clarified: Commerial viability in which aspect? So far as rural electrification is concerned or so far as electrification of tribal villages is concerned or so far as the minimum needs programme is concerned, are they commercially viable projects? If they are not commercially viable projects, how are you expecting the States to return the money along with interest and penal interest also?

Since there is no time, I would give five or six options to the Minister.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): You can give it in writing to the Minister.

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: I would just read them out. Please allow me to do so. I could not touch demand management part. It is not the supply of management which is ...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): Keep some information for the meeting of the Standing Committee also.

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: That is already there. Who bothers about the Standing Committee?

My first question is: Will the Minister of Power assure us that the recommendations made in the 26th Report of the Standing committee on the new policy in the power sector would be taken care of?

My second question is: Will the Minister tell us that an integrated power planning policy rather than only independent power producers would be formulated at the earliest?

Thirdly, I would like to know whether it would have the components of a balanced regional growth, whether it would have a competitive bidding in private participation, whether it would have a stronger role for the CEA as a regulatory body.

Lastly, with regard to energy conservation measures and demand management whether there will be equal stress on generation of power. I would also like to know whether energy audit would be made mandatory. We have already made this request to the former Minister of Power. I would also like to know whether renovation, modernisation and life extension programme of the existing power generating plants would be given greater priority rather than addition of power plants from outside. Thank you.

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री मोहम्मद सलीम): महेश्वर सिंह जी, आपकी पार्टी के 21 मिनट हैं और आपके चार वक्ता हैं इसके बाद पांच बजे आपको हाफ ऐन आॅवर डिस्कशन शुरू करना है।

श्री महेश्वर सिंह (हिमाचल प्रदेश): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, यह बात सर्वविदित है कि आज के आधुनिक युग में किसी भी देश की प्रगति के लिए बिजली एक अहम भूमिका निभाती है। खेद का विषय है कि जितना ध्यान सरकार को इस ओर देना चाहिए था, उतना नहीं दिया गया जिसके फलस्वरूप आज सारे देश में क्षमता होते हुए भी पॉवर शॉर्टेज है। कल जब चव्हाण साहब यहां बोल रहे थे तो ऐसा लग रहा था कि मानो इस सारे शॉर्टेज के लिए दोषी वर्तमान सरकार है। यह ठीक है कि इस सरकार को आए केवल सौ दिन हुए हैं इसलिए सारा दोष इन पर नहीं थोपा जा सकता, दोषी तो इससे पूर्व सरकार है जो लगभग 40-50 वर्षों तक इस देश पर राज करती रही। अगर उन्होंने बिजली के दोहन की ओर ध्यान दिया होता तो बिजली के उत्पादन में हम आगे रहते। इस बार के बजट से लगता है कि वर्तमान सरकार भी पूर्व सरकार के पदचिन्हों पर चल रही है और अगर उस पर ही आप चलते रहे तो आप भी बिजली के उत्पादन में कोई विशेष उपलब्धि नहीं कर पाएंगे। जो आंकड़े मेरे पास हैं, वह सिद्ध करते हैं कि पॉवर जैनरेशन का जो सैक्टर है, इस ओर हम प्रगति नहीं कर रहे हैं बल्कि लगातार पीछे जा रहे हैं। जैसा कि 1992-93 में जो आपने बिजली के उत्पादन में अपनी केपेसिटी बढ़ाई है वह कुल मिलाकर 3,537.27 मेगावाट है, 1993-94 में 4,538.75 मेगावाट है, 1994-95 में 4,598.50 मेगावाट है और 1995-96 में 2,123.55 मेगावाट है। इसका अर्थ यह है कि 1995-96 में जो आपने केपेसिटी बढ़ाई है वह 1992-93 की तुलना में भी बहुत कम है। यही नहीं, जहां तक हाइडल जेनरेशन का संबंध है उस ओर तो सरकार का ध्यान ही नहीं है। गत वर्ष के आंकड़े यह सिद्ध करते हैं कि जो आपका सेन्टर सैक्टर है उसमें आपने कितना टारगेट रखा है वह शून्य है और फिर आपकी उपलब्धि भी शून्य नहीं होगी? आप थर्मल पावर को ज्यादा महत्व दे रहे हैं लेकिन हाइडल पावर में जल विद्युत परियोजना से जो बिजली पैदा होती है वह सस्ती होती है लेकिन उस ओर सरकार का ध्यान नहीं है। मुझे यह समझ में नहीं आता कि आप क्यों थर्मल प्रोजेक्ट्स को ज्यादा प्राथमिकता देते हैं। थर्मल प्रोजेक्ट से जो बिजली पैदा होती है वह आपके हाइडल प्रोजेक्ट से पैदा होने वाली बिजली से कई गुनी मंहगी है, तो आपको उस ओर ध्यान देना चाहिए।

जैसा कि यहां पर दीपांकर मुखर्जी ने भी कहा है। पिछले सप्ताह इस बात को लेकर एक प्रश्न था और आपको याद होगा, मैंने उस पर एक अनुपूरक प्रश्न पूछा था। मुझे लगता है कि आप मेरे अनुपूरक प्रश्न को ठीक तरह से समझ नहीं पाये। मैंने यह कहा था कि हाइडल प्रोजेक्ट में भी एक और सैक्टर है कि जहां आप डैम बनाकर बिजली पैदा करते हैं वहां अनेकों समस्याएं पैदा होती हैं। जैसे कि आलमत्ती डैम को लेकर यहां समस्या पैदा हुई। कभी-कभी यहां अन्तर स्टेट प्रॉब्लमस भी खड़ी होती हैं क्योंकि डैम के बनने से कहीं भूमि जलमग्न होती है, लोग विस्थापित होते हैं और कई प्रकार की समस्याएं पैदा होती हैं। मैंने यह प्रश्न पूछा था कि क्या जो रनिंग वाटर है उससे बिजली पैदा करने पर सरकार ध्यान देगी? आप माइक्रो हाइडल प्रोजेक्ट्स को प्राथमिकता दें क्योंकि वह ज्यादा इकोफ्रेंड है। उसमें आपके पर्यावरण को कोई खतरा नहीं है। जब आप माइक्रो हाइडल प्रोजेक्ट को फाइनेंस करते हैं तो उसमें डैम बनाने की जरूरत नहीं

है। पहाड़ों में इतनी क्षमता है कि अगर आप उससे बिजली पैदा करें तो आपका पर्यावरण ठीक रहेगा और किसी किस्म की समस्या नहीं होगी तथा बिजली उत्पादन में भी वृद्धि होगी।

महोदय, यह बात सर्वविदित है कि जहां तक जल विद्युत परियोजना का संबंध है। इस देश के पहाड़ अकेले इतनी क्षमता रखते हैं कि वह सारे देश की जरूरत को पूरा कर सकते हैं। मैं आपका ध्यान हिमाचल की ओर ले जाना चाहूंगा। हिमाचल अकेला ही एक ऐसा छोटा सा प्रान्त है जो कि बीस हजार मेगावाट बिजली पैदा करने की क्षमता रखता है लेकिन उसके आर्थिक साधन सीमित हैं। आर्थिक साधन सीमित होने से जितनी क्षमता है उसका दोहन नहीं हो पाता है। जो अब तक उसका दोहन हुआ है वह बहुत ही कम हुआ है क्योंकि हिमाचल आर्थिक दृष्टि से आत्मनिर्भर नहीं है। इसलिए भारत सरकार को हिमाचल की सहायता करनी चाहिए। सहायता करना तो दूर रहा, जो सहयोग आपसे मिलना चाहिए था वह भी हिमाचल को नहीं मिलता।

यहां कारपोरेशन की बात की जा रही है। अब विद्युत उत्पादन को बढ़ाने की दृष्टि से अनेकों कारपोरेशन्स की स्थापना की गई है जैसे एनएचपीसी है, एनटीपीसी है और अन्य कारपोरेशन हैं। नाकता नाथपा प्रोजेक्ट जो कि हिमाचल में है उसके लिए भी 1988 में एक कारपोरेशन की स्थापना कर दी गई थी। आपको हैरानी होगी कि परियोजना का काम तो हिमाचल में हो रहा है लेकिन उसका कार्यालय आपके भाई वीर सिंह मार्ग पर स्थित है। इस कार्यालय को हिमाचल में भेजने के लिए अनेकों बार चाहे वर्तमान सरकार हो या उसके पूर्व की भारतीय जनता पार्टी की सरकार हो, आपसे आग्रह किया है इसलिए इस कार्यालय को हिमाचल में भेज दीजिए। यह एक टारगेटिड प्रोजेक्ट था जो कि 1977 में पूरा होना चाहिए था लेकिन उच्च अधिकारी जो दिल्ली में एयर कंडीशन में बैठे हवा खा रहे हैं वह कह रहे हैं कि यह प्रोजेक्ट 1999 में पूरा होगा। अब दो साल का अन्तर हो गया। यही नहीं, महोदय, इसके अलावा एक बात और मैं आपके ध्यान में लाना चाहूंगा कि यह बात सर्वविदित है कि हिमाचल का जो रिआर्गनाइजेशन हुआ, पंजाब का जो रिआर्गनाइजेशन हुआ वह 1966 में हुआ। यह हमारा दुर्भाग्य है कि पहाड़ में धरती हमारी है, पानी हमारा है लेकिन उसमें जो हमको अधिकार मिलना चाहिए था उससे आज तक हम वंचित हैं।

जैसा कि मुंडी जिले में शानन प्रोजेक्ट है, वह राजाओं के टाइम में बना और पंजाब सरकार ने उसे बनाया। लेकिन वह प्रोजेक्ट आज हिमाचल प्रदेश को ट्रांसफर होना चाहिये क्योंकि धरती हिमाचल की है, पानी हिमाचल का है इस पर भी आज पंजाब सरकार का अधिकार है। हिमाचल को उसमें एक फूटी कौड़ी नहीं मिलती है। हम कोई खैरात नहीं मांग रहे हैं आपसे। हम तो हिमचाल का अधिकार मांग रहे हैं कि हिमाचल की धरती पर बने हुए प्रोजेक्ट में हिमाचल को भी उसका अधिकार मिलना चाहिये। यही नहीं भाखड़ा व्यास मैनेजमेंट पावर सिस्टम में जो पंजाब का रि-आर्गेनाइजेशन एक्ट 1966 है, उसके अन्तर्गत हमको 7.19 प्रतिशत हिस्सा मिलना चाहिए था लेकिन हमको एडहोक हिस्सा जो मिला वह 2.5 प्रतिशत मिला है। उस समय हमको यह कहा गया कि 1966 एक्ट के तहत आपको पूरा अधिकार मिल जायेगा। मुझे खेद है कि बार-बार हम भारत सरकार से प्रार्थना करते रहे लेकिन वह अधिकार हमें नहीं मिला। अब यह एरियर 1200 करोड़ रुपये बनता है। हिमाचल प्रदेश आत्मनिर्भरता की तरफ बढ़ना चाहता है, हम ज्यादा बिजली का उत्पादन करना चाहते हैं। हम कहते हैं कि आप अगर हमारी सहायता आर्थिक दृष्टि से नहीं कर सकते तो हमको न्याय देकर हमारी सहायता कीजिये। यह 1200 करोड़ रुपया अगर हमको मिलता है तो हम अधिक बिजली का उत्पादन कर सकेंगे। इस ओर आप ध्यान नहीं दे रहे हैं और 52 करोड़ रुपये का हर साल हमारा एक्यूरल इसमें बनता है। यह जो मैं एरियर की बात करता हूं कि वह 1200 करोड़ बनता है? इसलिए मंत्री महोदय, कम से कम यह तो कर दीजिये। आज हमें न्यायालय के दरवाजे खटखटाने पड़ रहे हैं 1200 करोड़ लेने के लिए। मैं हिमाचल सरकार की ओर भी आपका ध्यान ले जाना चाहूंगा कि वहां पर एक पार्वती प्रोजेक्ट है जिसके लिए भारतीय जनता पार्टी की पूर्व सरकार ने एक मेमो आफ अंडरस्टैंडिंग दस्तख्त किये जिसमें भारत सरकार की अनुमति है और यह 5 प्रांतों से मिलकर 21 मेगावाट बिजली पैदा करने की क्षमता वाला प्रोजेक्ट है, उसका काम शुरू करें जिसमें पांच प्रतिशत खर्चा हिमाचल को करना है और 25 प्रतिशत बाकी के प्रांतों को करना है। साढ़े बारह प्रतिशत बिजली हमको मिलनी है, लेकिन उसमें वर्तमान हिमाचल प्रदेश की सरकार रोड़ा अटकाये बैठी है। जो काम चला था उसको रोक दिया है। वे कहते हैं कि हम तो 25 प्रतिशत खर्चा करेंगे। हमारे पास पैसा नहीं है। जब इनके पास पैसा नहीं है तो 25 प्रतिशत कहां से खर्च करेंगे। इसमें आप कृपया हस्तक्षेप करिये। यही नहीं जो लॉजीं प्रोजेक्ट है वह 125 मेगावाट बिजली पैदा करने की क्षमता रखता है

और उसमें आप केन्द्र से आर्थिक सहायता दे रहे है लेकिन वहां पर जो ग्राउन्ड वर्क हो चुका है, सब कुछ हो चुका है तो इस स्टेज पर हिमाचल सरकार उसको प्राइवेट सैक्टर में देने की बात कर रही है। हम प्राइवेट सैक्टर के विरोधी नहीं है। हम चाहते हैं कि विद्युत उत्पादन के क्षेत्र में हमें प्राइवेट सैक्टर में जाना चाहिये लेकिन जहां सारा-ग्राउन्ड वर्क हो गया, जहां केन्द्र का इतना पैसा लगा हो तो इसमें आप कृपा हस्तक्षेप करें और हिमाचल सरकार को बाध्य करें कि हिमाचल का इलैक्ट्रिसिटी बोर्ड उसको पूरा करें। हिमाचल एक स्पैशल-कैटेगिरी-स्टेट है। इस देश में और भी कुछ ऐसे प्रांत हैं जो स्पैशल केटेगिरी प्रांत कहलाते हैं। इन प्रांतों की आर्थिक स्थिति में सुधार आये इसके लिए केन्द्र ने एक रंगाराजन समिति का गठन किया था। उस समिति ने अपनी सिफारिश की थी और हिमाचल के बारे में लिखा था कि अब समय आ गया है हिमाचल प्रदेश को भी कुछ टैक्स लगाकर अपनी आर्थिक-स्थिति सुधारने पर विचार करना चाहिये। 1993 में यहां के सैक्रेटरी प्लानिंग ने हिमाचल सरकार को लिखा था कि आप कुछ न कुछ इस प्रकार के आय के साधन बढ़ाने के लिए कोई प्रोपोजल यहां भेजिये। मुझे इस बात की प्रसन्नता है कि वहां की विधान सभा ने 1995 में एक विधेयक पारित करके आपके यहां भेजा है लेकिन उसको आज तक ऐसेन्ट नहीं मिली है और यह प्रोपोजल यहां रखी गई कि हम जो बिजली पैदा करते हैं, जनरेशन टैक्स लगाने की अनुमति दीजिये। केवल 10 पैसे प्रति यूनिट की बात हमने कही है। अगर यह ऐसेन्ट हमको मिलती है तो डेढ़ सौ करोड़ रुपये का, साल का रेवेन्यू मिलता है ताकि हम वहां बिजली उत्पादन में पैसा खर्च कर सकें। कृपया हमें ऐसेन्ट दिला दीजिये। पहले आप ही यहां से लिखते हैं, आपकी डायरेक्शन का हम पालन करते हैं तो उसके बाद हमारी यह दुर्दशा होती है, हमें यहां से ऐसेन्ट नहीं मिलती है। अतः इस ओर भी आपको ध्यान देने की जरूरत है। मुझे पूरा विश्वास है कि आप इस ओर अवश्य ध्यान देंगे। जहां तक ट्रांसमिशन डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन लोसेज की बात है आपने बजट में जो थर्मल विद्युत परियोजना से बिजली पैदा होती है उसके लिये तो 5.20 करोड़ रुपये का प्रावधान कर दिया लेकिन हाइडल प्रोजेक्ट की ओर आपका ध्यान नहीं है।

3.00 P.M.

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री मोहम्मद सलीम): इस पर दूसरे सदस्य भी बोलने वाले हैं।

श्री महेश्वर सिंह: मैं एक मिनट में अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूं।

कुटीर ज्योति कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत आपने 25 करोड़ रुपये रखे हैं जिसके अन्तर्गत हरिजन बन्धुओं की जो बस्तियां हैं, उनके जो घर हैं, उनमें एक-एक लाइट देने की बात कहीं गयी है। महोदय, इस बात का मैं स्वागत करता हूं, सरकार ने इसके लिए यह जो पैसा रखा है इसका स्वागत करता हूं लेकिन सरकार को यह भी सुनिश्चित करना चाहिए कि इस पैसे का सदुपयोग हो, समय रहते यह खर्च किया जाए। बजट में जो एक्सप्लेनेटरी नोट है वह यह साबित करता है कि आपने जो टारगेट रखा है वहां तक आप अचीव नहीं कर पाए। आपने पिछले साल 625 लाख कनेक्शनों का टारगेट रखा था लेकिन केवल 511 लाख कनेक्शन आप दे पाए। क्या मैं यह समझूं कि हरिजन बंधुओं को बिजली की जरूरत नहीं है या कुछ ऐसे प्रांत हैं जो इस पैसे को खर्च नहीं करते। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि पर साल आपने कितने कितने पैसे इस योजना के अन्तर्गत दिए थे, कितना टारगेट रखा था और कितना अचीव किया? मुझे विश्वास है कि आप ये सारे आंकड़े यहां पर रखेंगे।

अंत में मैं, आर०ई०सी०, रूरल इलेट्रीफिकेशन कारपोरेशन की ओर आपका ध्यान ले जाना चाहूंगा। आपने 348 करोड़ रुपया दिया ताकि विभिन्न प्रांतों के जो ग्रामीण क्षेत्र हैं, वहां विद्युतीकरण हो सके। महोदय, विद्युतीकरण करना ही काफी नहीं है। हम जो पहाड़ों में बसे हुए लोग हैं हमें लाइट तो मिल जाएगी। मगर हमारी समस्या है चक्की की। हमें अपना आटा पिसाने के लिए और दूसरी चीजों के लिए चार-चार, आठ-आठ, दस-दस किलोमीटर खड़ी चढ़ाई चढ़कर जाना पड़ता है। इसलिए हमें थ्री फेज की आवश्यकता है सिस्टम में इम्प्रूवमेंट और जो ट्रांसमिशन लासेज हैं उनको कम करना है। इस ओर भी ध्यान देने की जरूरत है। उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, क्योंकि आप बार बार घंटी बजा रहे है इसलिए मैं अब समाप्त करता हूं। अगर कोई और सुझाव होगा तो मैं लिखकर दे दूंगा। मुझे आशा ही नहीं बल्कि पूर्ण विश्वास है कि मंत्री महोदय उन प्रांतों की ओर विशेष ध्यान देंगे जो इस मामले में आत्म-निर्भर होना चाहते हैं। वे अपना अधिकार लेना चाहते हैं, वे कोई खैरात नहीं मांग रहे हैं। आशा है आप उनकी ओर ध्यान देंगे ताकि विद्युत उत्पादन में उनका और योगदान हो सके। इस देश में जो पावर संकट है उसको समाप्त करने में वे अपना योगदान दे सकें। मुझे आशा ही नहीं बल्कि पूर्ण विश्वास है कि आप उनको आर्थिक सहयोग और अन्य प्रकार का सहयोग देकर उन्हें आत्म-सम्मान से जीने और आत्मनिर्भर होने का अवसर देंगे। इन शब्दों के साथ मैं आपका धन्यवाद करता हूं।

SHRI R.K. KUMAR (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, power, whether political or electrical, is very important and I thank you for allowing me to speak on the Department of Power. Sir, recently we had an orientation programme for newly elected Members of Parliament. An hon. ex-Member and a very good parliamentarian, Mr. Jaipal Reddy, spoke on a topic and he said that we, parliamentarians, are generalists and not specialists. So, being a generalist, I would like to strictly follow his advice. I am not a specialist like Mr. Dipankar Mukherjee or our other friends to quote facts and figures. I would like to make some general submissions on the Department of Power. Welfare of the people depends on economic development. What is economic development? It is increased production of wealth and equitable distribution of the same. What do we need for increased production? We need infrastructure. On the top of the list of infrastructure is power. Then comes communication and transport. The economic liberalisation that was brought in 1991 put the cart before the horse. Instead of first giving attention to the development of infrastructure like power, communication and transport, we opened up the economy. We attracted foreign capital. We eased the licensing norms. We facilitated the import of raw materials. What is the result of all this? We have pepsi; we have coca-cola; we have Macdonald and we have Kentucky fried chicken with all its problems in Karnataka. Still we don't have enough power. We don't have good roads. Our ports are congested and our telephone lines are not working. Even the CBI telephone line is not working. They are not able to get the line to London. How can the economic liberalisation be achieved in this scenario where there is lack of enough power generation?

We have privated power. I am going to make certain general observations. If I am wrong the hon. Minister is most welcome to contradict me or correct me when he replies to the debate. The Director General of Technical Development, DGTD, the Controller of Capital Issues and the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports were all considered an impediment to the process of growth. They were delaying the process of growth and the process of advancement. We have dismantled all of them. By a stroke of pen we have dismantled DGTD, CCIE and other regulatory mechanisms. But in the case of power generation and privatisation of power, the stumbling-block has been embodied in one authourity which is called the Central Electricity Authority, CEA. Five years ago we had opened up the power sector. I would like to know how many private sector units have gone on stream and how many units of electricity have been produced. I was told that only one private sector generating unit has come up. The CEA is working in a typical bureaucratic system which delays the growth of industrical development and speedy progress. In the case of industrial development what was being done by DGTD, CCIE and others has now been taken over by the CEA in respect of power generation. I would request the Government to kindly look into the working of the CEA. Why should there be so much delay in clearing the proposals? I was even told — I may be corrected if I am wrong — that there is a lack of expertise in general matters, particularly in financial appraisal. I was told that the CEA was hiring the Price Water House, an international firm of accountants to help them as outside consultants. I don't know how far it is true. If that is the situation, what is the CEA doing except only delaying the implementation of private sector generation? I don't understand one more thing. There is a requirement that each private sector generator can cover only 200 kilometres. I don't understand the sanctity of the area of 200 kilometres. Why should it not be more? Moreover, when the State Electricity Boards have cleared certain projects, why is the CEA delaying them? I would like the hon. Minister to go into it.

Now I come to the next point. We are now privatising only generation. Distribution would still be in the hands of the State Electricity Boards. Ultimately, even the distribution has to go into the hands of private sector because of one reason. Even the private sector generated electricity is going to be distributed through the State Electricity Boards. In the case of distribution, what is happening in the State Electricity Boards is heavy line loss, which is colloquial the term and called technically it is called T&D, Transmission and Distribution loss or in simple plain languange it is called energy theft.

I would like to narrate a very interesting story which happened about 25 years ago. I was a young Chartered Accountant. I went to audit a group of companies in Erode where a number of powerlooms were being operated. I found from the profit and loss account, textiles worth crores of rupees were manufactured through powerloom and sold. But on the debit side there was no electricity expense at all. I questioned the accountant. I asked, "How is it that you are manufacturing textiles worth crores of rupees but you are not incurring any expenditure on electricity?" He said "Why are you concerned about it? If there is an expenditure, then you ask for vouchers. When I have not incurred expenditure, why are you bothered?" Then I was told that they were taking power directly from the pole, not through meter. That is what is happening. After 25 years...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Then many people started following it.

SHRI R.K. KUMAR: I have got the figures. I am given to understand that T&D loss is 45 per cent in the capital city of Delhi alone. If this thing continues, ultimately the common man will have to bear the cost. If you privatise the generation and take over the distribution through this kind of a mechanism and if you continue to incur this kind of sophisticated description of Transmission and Distribution loss, ultimately the common man will bear the loss.

I don't understand one more thing in the appraisal of the private sector project. Why should importance be given to capital cost? The bottom line is tariff. Here the importance is being given to how many crores of rupees each project will cost. I don't think there is any necessity to go into it. The rate at which the private sector supplies to the Electricity Boards should be important to us. Another point that I would like to submit is about captive generation. I was told that the Government looks down upon captive gernation of power by the private sector. What is wrong in that? I don't understand this. Supposing a big industry starts a power project and uses up the entire power generated by its own power plant, to that extent it eases the load on public distribution by the Electricity Boards. The Government should encorage power gerenation for private consumption also. I would like to say only one more thing. Mr. Vice-Chairman, I do not think, you will have the opportunity to press the bell. Another source of energy for which India has maximum potential is being totally neglected. I am talking of the coalbed Methane. I know that this issue is not directly relevant to the Power Ministry. But it being a source of energy, I am forced to mention it here. The consumption of power is rising throughout the country. Abundant energy is lying below mother earth waiting to be exploited. I am told that regarding this, some bickering is going on between the Ministry of Coal and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. I would like the hon. Minister for Power to tell us more about this. I would request the hon. Minister to pay attention to this source of energy. Before I conclude, I would like to say one thing. Normally, it is fashionable to find fault with the public sector undertakings. I know for certain, two public sector undertakings which deserve appreciation and through you, I would like to put on record my appreciation for the excellent work being done by the

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National Thermal Power Corporation and the Neyveli Lignite Corporation in generation of power.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): Vice-Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to participate in this opportunity to participate in this discussion. Sir, today, there is a lot of misunderstanding between the State Governments and the Central Government regarding power sector. The process of liberalisation was started about five years ago by the previous Congress Government under the leadership of Shri Narasimha Rao, our Congress President. The Government wants that there should be more generation of power in the country, the reason being, with liberalisation there will be more number of industries in the country. Power will be required by all industries. Therefore, the previous Government laid a lot of emphasis on power generation. Some of the hon. Members have said that we had not achieved the desired goal. I do not agree with them. There were so many bottlenecks and I would highlight a few of them here in this august House. In 1992, we had fixed a target of 30,000 MW. We have able to achieve 19,000 MW. This shortfall was there in spite of the thrust given by the Government. Why is this happening? Essentially, investments are not coming in. There is delay in giving clearance to power projects. Why is there delay in signing the agreements on power projects? Why is there delay in giving counter-guarantee by the Central Government? So many questions arise and hon. Members have raised these questions. For that matter I would like to give you one example. This has been raised by some hon. Members in this august House.

Sir, in Neyveli, a power project of the private sector had been finalised. The State Government had signed the agreement and thereafter it was brought to the Central Government. A U.S. company wanted to have a collaboration, a joint venture agreement, with the Indian company. There were two issues, namely, the question of power purchase agreement and the question of counter-guarantee. I would like to submit that I do not approve of the State Government agreeing to the cost of Rs. 4 per unit. This was opposed by all of us in this august House. Normally, there are power purchase agreements, the Government of India should have a uniform policy. Of course, the cost per unit varies from one State to another. Slight variations can be there because some companies use coal, some of them use gas and so on. But there should not be a vast disparity between one power purchase agreement and the other. When State Governments finalise the power purchase agreements, some of them go in for Rs. 2.60 per unit; some of them go in for Rs. 3 and odd per unit and some others go in for Rs. 4 per unit. This would create doubt in the minds of the people. Therefore, the Government of India should draw up a scheme by which it can give guidelines to the various State Governments and the State Governments can follow the norms set. But, unfortunately, when a power project is signed and it comes for approval, the Central Electricity Authority sits tight over the matter. It would then call on the company official and the State Government officials for the purpose of negotiations. In that process, there would be time overrun and cost overrun. The Ministry of Power has to clarify it. Then, on the question of counter-guarantee, certain guidelines have been drawn up. These guidelines have to be observed by the companies. As far as counter-guarantee is concerned, I came to know that some of the projects were cleared by the Madhya Pradesh Government but the Central Government refused to give counter-guarantee. It was still accepted by some of the companies. But in some of the projects, espacially the coal project in Maharashtra, in Gujarat and in Madhya Pradesh, the counter-guarantee was insisted upon. And it took a long time. I would like to

know from the hon. Minister as to how many projects have been kept pending for reasons of not finalising the counter-guarantee agreements. The hon. Minister has to answer it. When we go to foreign countries and tell them that we have opened up our economy, a lot of companies come and invest, especially in the power sector, in our country. We have completely closed the licensing system. They say that in this situation, when all the channels have been closed, only one channel remains with the CEA, but it is not giving clearance. As one of the hon. Members has said, it does not have the technical expertise. It says that as far as counter-guarantee is concerned, it wold not accept until certain conditions are fulfilled. I would like to submit that as far as power projects are concerned, the per-unit-cost figure varies from one State to another. In some cases, the cost runs to Rs. 4 crores per megawatt. Sometimes, it goes up to Rs. 5 crores per megawatt. Sometimes. it is Rs. 3.5 crores per megawatt. But for negotiating this aspect alone, the Power Ministry takes quite a long time because there is the question of counter-guarantee. The entire scheme of the Government of India in giving clearance to power projects has been totally negated by the Power Ministry. Why is it so? I got a reply from the hon. Minister to various aspects. So many projects are pending for approval. One thing which has been forgotten is that if there is delay of say, nine months or ten months or one year, the cost overrun and the time overrun would add to the expenditure. Your Ministry is not going to compensate that. I can agree with the hon. Minister if he says that the companies which are coming here are not fulfilling certain guidelines but then they fulfil the guidelines, why do take such a long time in crlearing these projects? Even you don't have co-ordination with the Ministry of Finance. Even if something is recommended by your Ministry, the same is not accepted by the Ministry of Finance. This kind of bottlenecks have to be removed.

Sir, I would like to submit that as far as generation of power is concerned, the State Governments are concentrating on coal only. In the coastal line of our country, especially in Tamil Nadu, power is being tapped through wind energy. I know that the Ministry of Power is not directly concerned with the non-conventional sources of energy. Neither the Ministry of Power nor the Ministry of Non-conventional Sources of Energy is concentrating on tepping power through wind energy. Actually, what happens is this. Sometimes, a momentum is created and thereafter it dies down. Now, an opinion has been created in the international community and in the multinational companies who have come here that India is not having conducive atmosphere for investing in the power sector. That situation has been created in the last eight-nine months. This situation was created because of some problem create by some—I don't want to name the political parties—State Governments, especially in Maharashtra. When the new Government came to power, it reopened the chapter. There was cost escalation due to this delay. In this way, a wrong message was sent to other countries. The Government continues. If there is an irregularity or corruption or anything, you investigate into the matter. In the name of not allowing the project to continue, the new Government stopped that project. Ultimately, what happened? After one-and-a-half years, the present Government allowed that power project to continue. In Maharashtra, the BJP and the Shiv Sena Government...

AN HON. MEMBER: Some changes were incorporated into agreement.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: There was no change at all. I am prepared to take the challenge from the hon. Member sitting here. It was not changed. Whatever terms and conditions had been agreed to by the Congress Government, the same were accepted by the Shiv Sena Government, though it was opposed by the BJP then. This I would like to tell the

hon. Member. Whatever report was brought about by the committee headed by one of the intellectuals, the same was negatived by the Shiv Sena Government, though you are a partner in that Government. Kindly don't forget that. In this way, that message has been sent. I would request the hon. Minister that he should try to remove the fears from the minds of multinational companies who want to come here for investing in the power sector.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): With this request, you conclude now.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, there are so many things to talk about...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: He is a powerful man, let him raise those points...(*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): The rest of the points you give the Minister in writing. He will seriously look into them.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, had they not provoked me, I would not have gone there. In fact, the provocation came from the Left and I answered the Right. That was my problem. ...(*Interruptions*)... Sir, I am going to conclude now. Sir, the State Electricity Boards do not come under the Ministry of Power directly, but these State Electricity Boards need to be restructured. I went through the report of the Standing Committee on Energy wherein evidence was given by Shri Tata Rao, the former Chairman of Andhra Pradesh Electricity Board. He said that in the bigger States, you can have three corporations, one for the purpose of generation of power, another corporation for rural electrification and another corporation for urban areas so that all of them can do their work in close co-ordination. In this way, you can avoid losses in transmission and power generating capacity can be improved Apart from that, you can regulate the functioning of various boards. Unfortunately, all the powers have been vested in the State Electricity Boards. They are running them today. But, ultimately, the burden comes to you as the State Governments pass on the buck to you. Therefore, I would draw the attention of the hon. Minister that this is a very good suggestion and he can consider it. He can persuade the State Governments through they may not be directly under his control. He can persuade them to streamline the system of State Electricity Boards to avoid that. Sir, finally I come to my State. The Central Government was kind enough to give a power project which is being executed through the Power Corporation of Pondicherry State. Once again, the question of cost escalation and time over-runs has come. We are also a victim of it. The Power Ministry took a long time. The project which was to cost Rs. 125 crores now has gone up to Rs. 200 crores. The previous and the present Chief Ministers of my State were running to the hon. Minister for release of funds. Fifty per cent of the funds have been released. I would like the Minister to release the remaining money in order to complete it early. It is a gas-based power plant which is going to cater to the needs of not only our State but also Tamil Nadu from where hon. Minister, Shri Somu also comes. That will help Tamil Nadu from Karaikal to Nagapattinam and other areas. Therefore, I would like to submit that the appraisal of the power projects is taking a long time, counter-guarantee takes a long time, singing the power purchase agreement takes a long time, giving clearance takes a long time. To avoid all these, I request the hon. Minister, through you, to give proper guidelines to the State Governments to get the foreign investment under certain parameters. If it is done under that you allow them, otherwise, you call for negotiations. Because your term of five years will be over and you will go out of office, a new Government will come. Therefore, Mr. Minister, I would like to

submit, that you streamline the system. Whatever is continuing, let it continue. The Congress Government was able to contribute much in getting more power in this country through liberalisation. While continuing the same policy we have to improve by trial and error. I would request the Minister to concentrate more on giving early clearance to power projects. Please do not take a long time. It will send a wrong signal.

In such a situation we will feel bad. It is not lucrative for them also because foreign investors do not come her for charity. They want returns for their investment. Let us create an atmosphere for that. Let India not be considered as a nation where investment is a drain for their funds. I request the Minister to consider this.

One more thing is to review the policy which was brought out by the previous Government to improve the system. If anything is to be added, we openly welcome it for a debate on the subject. Let the Minister call Members of Parliament and the giants of the industry, have a discussion with them. Thereafter, if you want any improvement, it can be done.

People who are in the field can be better than the Members of Parliament. Please call a meeting during the inter-Session period, through which the hon. Minister will be able to know practical problems of the industry and thereby you can improve upon the system. Thank you, very much, sir.

SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY (Andhra Prądesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for providing me an opportunity to speak on the working of the Ministry of Power. Sir, now we have reached to a stage where we cannot live without electricity which is like oxygen and water without which we cannot live. We cannot say that we have not done anything in the past fifty years. Definitely something has been done but it is not up to the requirements of the country. As we all know very well, we need electricity for agriculture, we need it for industry. We even need it in our kitchens and bedrooms also. It has got that much importance.

Sir, in the last 49 or 50 years, generation of power has been increased. Today what we see is that we are not able to get electricity to our requirements. In 1992-93 the availability was short by 8.3%, in 1993-94 it was 7.3% and in 1994-95 it was 7.1%. In 1995-96 that is the latest figure—the availability to requirement was 9.2 per cent short. At least I hope this Government will give prominence and importance to it and take necessary action to reduce this shortage and will bring it down to the level of zero shortage. Sir, after the liberalisation programme in 1991, the Government has also invited private sector to participate in this. As per my information, as on 31st March, 1996, there were 194 offers for setting up power plants with a total capacity of 75,2 96 MW with an investment of Rs. 2,82,228 crores and in this 52 foreign firms are also there. Sir, a lot of undue delay is going on. Yes, we accept transparency. But, transparency does not mean undue delays for weeks together, for months together and for years togethers. Transparency means that it must be seen by the people as to what is happening, what the Government and these private parties are discussing across the table and whether they are using only lips or their hands also. That must be seen. That is the transparency. But, in the name of transparency, undue delays are taking place. Therefore, I request the Government, particularly our hon. Minister, to see to it that in order to resolve this power problem early clearance must be given for setting up power projects, particularly in Andhra Pradesh. Sir, I come from Andhra Pradesh. In Andhra Pradesh, there are several proposals for setting up power projects which are pending with the Government. I think, so far, only one or

two have been cleared. Sir, many more are yet to be cleared. I would request the Government to clear them immediately.

The second question is with regard to transmission and distribution losses. In the whole world 10 per cent transmission and distribution losses are acceptable. But in India, it is considered that 12 to 15 per cent losses are acceptable. Sir, I give the Government figures; in 1970-71, there were 17.6 per cent losses. It increased to 20.26 per cent from 1980 to 1985. In 1989-90 and 1990-91, it increased to 22.9 per cent. Every year it is increasing. In the Eighth Five Year Plan, we had set a target of one per cent reduction, in every year. Already we have passed four years of the Eighth Plan. Sir, we were to reduce the losses by four per cent. But, we could reduce it only by 1.98 per cent. That is very horrible, Sir. Therefore, I request the Government to see to it that these losses are reduced to the maximum extent possible. These transmission losses include theft, that is, illegal connections of electricity. In every village — at least I have seen it with my own eyes in my State — we can see these illegal connections. This leads to transmission losses. So, in every theft, in every illegal connection, there is collusion with Electricity Board people whether it is Lineman or Line Inspector. It can be even up to the level of Supervisor. Therefore, this mismanagement of Electricity Boards is leading to more and more losses. Therefore, a better management is required for this purpose. We know every Electricity Board in the country is in loss today. The reason for this is that there is lack of better management. Not only this, every Board has got so many arrears to collect. These Boards are running in losses. They have to collect a lot of arrears. They say that the court cases are pending, therefore, they are not able to collect. I would like to say that it is just misleading the people and the Government. These Electricity Boards are in collusion with these factories or industries Managements which have to pay lakhs and lakhs of rupees. Sir, the courts might have given stay orders for collections. But, these people can stop the electricity connections. But, these people never stop. Even if any court says that these connections must not be stopped, it is in our own hands and we can say that these people are colluding and, therefore, arrears are coming up and the Boards are running in losses. Therefore, I would request for a better management in all the Electricity Boards so that these losses are reduced and power generation in increased. I thank you, Mr. Vice-Chairman, for giving me this opportunity to speak.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): Dr. B.B. Dutta.

DR. B.B. DUTTA (Nominated): Sir, the hon. Member Mr. Kumar, said that we are generalists and let us talk from the common man's point of view. So I would like to do the same. I am not going into the intricacies of statistics and all the technical terms that are involved in explaining the power situation. Sir, as far as electricity is concerned—which is one of the items of energy—we know one thing, as students of economics, that if you bring electricity to a village, if you bring electricity to a house-hold, it has a tremendous impact on various aspects of the life of the village, on the life of the people. It is a great catalyst for all-round development. When the house-hold is electrified, not only the house becomes a cleaner one, the people develop a modern outlook and become more conducive to rapid change. Therefore, I would like to impress upon you one thing, that when we discuss power we should not merely calculate the cost aspect in terms of money like we calculate in regard to other items; because, it generates such forces. That is why Lenin said; 'Electricity plus Soviet is equal to communism.'—because, it changes the entire economic scenario. It is a great agent for all-round

transformation of society. Sir, keeping this point in mind, I find that power generation is not only one of the six major infrastructure industries about which the hon. Finance Minister talked yesterday and Shri Dipankar Mukherjee repeated today but it will also act as an agent of national integration. Here is an item: We can take the whole county as one unit and give power to everybody and we can give power to every sort of industrial activity starting from cottage through small, medium, etc. Here, in policy objectives, in respect of power, I find, they have listed six objectives and one of the major objectives says: Effective utilisation of power generated by transfer from surplus region to deficit region through inter-regional lines. It has also in mind the regional imbalances that persist, the regional union and the regional uniform development that we seek. And in this power plays a very vital role. But, if we look at the scenario in India today, we will find that the power generation, the development of power, the distribution of power, is occuring in such a manner that it is more and more going to the advanced areas and the backward areas are more and more denied. Instead of it being an integrating force, it is also contributing to regional disparities. That is the question I would like to post to those who are framing the power policy and putting it into operation. Sir, I would like to give one examples. Take the case of North-East. There are seven States. They have got the largest hydel potential. Nearly forty per cent hydel potential is there. Yet power is not generated. What is the argument they give for low power generation?

First: low demand. Second: power evacuation difficulties. Third; opposition of some States to large hydel projects. Then, law and order difficulties; industrial disputes; environment and forest clearance problem.

Let me first take the question of low demand. Has the North-East no need for power in the future? The answer is: 'no'. Has the North-East been industrialised? No. Would power come to the North-East after the North-East is industrialised? Or, would power lead to industrialisation of the North-East? I do not know. We are getting confused.

In regard to the question of low demand, I would give just one example because the time is short. As regards low demand, percentage use of power demand agaisnt the estimated potential—there are many such Tables in respect of many items—all the other States—72.21; the Eastern States—14.6; and the North-Eastern States—3.11. Now, is there not demand? Is there not a pent-up demand there? Similarly, I can refer to many other Tables; I can show that there is demand inside the North-East.

Sir, it reminds me of one thing. Why a broad guage line could not be taken to Guwahati? 'It is not commercially viable'. Even after the broad gauge line has been given, after forty years, you cannot cope with the demand. Why is not the international airport, the nodal airport, in Guwahati modernised? 'There would be no demand'. Now you cannot cope with the demand when it has been declared as a semi-international airport.

This is the way our planners have been dealing with the North-East. I would say; 'For God's sake, don't commit the same mistake again.' Bangladesh is going to be the future power consumer; power from the North-East. You have not done any proper integration, any proper power integration, between the Eastern Region States and the North-East. One-and-a-half years back, we examined the power situation in a conference. We produced a report. We found that there were tremendous anomalies in ensuring the proper mix between hydel and thermal power generation. As I pointed out, the North-East has not been properly integrated through a grid with the Eastern Region States.

You are talking about inter-regionallinks, grid system, and all that. The North-East came into the grid only recently. The other day, the formal link has been established. What is the status of this linkage? I would like to know. I remember, about one-and-a-half years back, the Power Minister went and inaugurated the grid. You have taken forty-eight years to do that.

You are following a policy of abdication in the North-East. You are abdicating. You are saying as to why you cannot do it. Additional arguments are given. One of the agruments is: opposition of some States to hydel power projects. There was no such opposition earlier. The opposition has come now. This is because there are certain political developments in the North-East. The opposition is not because of economic reasons, but because of political reasons. As I said, the opposition is there only now. It was not there earlier.

Another argument advanced is; law and order difficulties. There was a time when, excepting in Nagaland, there was no law and order problem in the other North-Eastern States which could hinder the setting up of power plants. You say: 'law and order difficulties'. Are you not yielding to the extremists and insurgents? Are you not following a policy of abdication? You are gradually withdrawing from the North-East. For God's sake, don't do that. Only if you want to part with the North-East, do it.

Then, you say: 'environment and forest clearance problems'. Is the Environment and Forest Ministry located in the U.S.A. or U.K.? Is it not a part of the Central Government? When the Cabinet takes a decision to come up with certain projects, to adopt certain policies, you have to set a target time to the Environment and Forest Ministry that they have to examine the matter and give their clearance within such and such time. If the Environment Ministry decides that a project can never come up because of environment reasons, it should be able to convince the entire country that it cannot be done. Why should we play politics in the name of environment clearance?

For anything—for example, setting up an industry—you say environment clearance is not there. Why is the Shillong by pass not been taken up even after fifty years of Independence? Because the main National Highway in the Assam region is being connected to the Southern region *via* the Shillong hill staton to the heart of the town. Why is it not being taken up? Environment clearance. I have been hearing it for the last many years. What a silly answer! If this is the type of mentality that we display, we are not going to do anything. We are going to keep quiet and not do anything.

So, Sir, I question the very power policy itself. If the policy is to generate power, then you look at the situation. What is the potential of hydel power in Maghalaya? The potential under current development is zero. Potential already developed is 121.67 MW out of 1,070 MW. I can cite other States also but I am not doing so. Similarly, in Tripura, Manipur, Assam, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh, you will find that it is terribly under-utilised. So I say, for God's sake come in a big way to generate power in the North-East and feed the power into the grid and give power to the people, to the households. When you are showing a high percentage of electrification of villages—that is what Mr. Dipankar Mukherjee has said—when a light burns in a village, the village is deemed to have been electrified. But you are not giving the number of households electrified because by that figure we will know that no electrification at all has been done in the villages in many parts. Nothing has been done.

So the question is this. We can supply electricity to the railways. The North-Eastern Railway is a primitive one. You can electrify that. And you can sell power to Bangladesh also. The demand will be coming. But when the Demand comes,

you will not be ready for that. You can supply power, through the grid, to the eastern region also. But you are not doing that....*(Time-bell rings)*....

Sir, another argument that is given is that the production costs would be high. Why should not the production costs be high? When you come to power generation, then you include the cost of road building also because you need a road to reach the site. Suppose there is a 50-kilometre long road, then the cost would be huge. Already the labour cost is high there. So the cost will be high. Now you are only spending for infrastructure. Should we not develop our infrastructure keeping in mind where the power resources are located? And our roads should go near by. That is how planning is done in every other country. If you visit any foreign country, you will find—because the hydrological data is fairly constant —low infrastructure. It is coming from another head. Why should it be so? To remined you of the ludicrous position I may tell you that once, three, four years back, in a power project they included the cost of extension of a runway also. It was something to be done in the airport. That was also included in the power project. Because certain heavy equipment had to be transported there, that was necessitated. So, to that extent our power policy can trouble you. This is how the cost of production will become further high.

Sir, I am not going to take further time. I will make only one point more. Let us have a healthy power policy. Let us have a progressive power policy. Let us see that every household in India gets power and every bit of industrial activity is done by power. We should not sometimes lay down policies like a socialist visionary and try to implement them and then, while going for the sanction of a project, let us not go with the mentality of a shopkeeper or an accountant. We should not vacillate between this and that. We must have a very healthy attitude towards the development of power.

Sir, a power famine is in sight. The power sortage is increasing. We are making massive injections of money by way of investments in different sectors of the economy. Will not the power demand go up? We are creating a wide gap and we are going to face the situation.

Thank you, Sir.

SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA (Bihar): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, to start with, it is quite obvious that the policy of privatisation in the power sector has failed miserably, resulting in a large-scale slippage of the capacity addition programme of power generation, mainly because of the abnormal delays involving compliance of multi-state formalities and regulations for clearance. The system requires streamling for faster achievement of the target.

Operations of other industrial sectors depend upon power. Opening the power sector at the ground level has resulted in an increased power shortage in comparison to the demand. From the Ministry's own publication I am giving some data here.

The Eighth Five-Year Plan's capacity addition programme was of 30,538 megawatts. During the Eighth Five-Year Plan, the capacity addition for the first four years was 14,798 megawatts. The capacity addition programme during 1996-97 is for 2,869 megawatts.

It means that the likely capacity addition will 17,667 megawatts, only 58 per cent of the target of the Eight Five-Year Plan, with a net shortage of 12,871 megawatts, whereas during the Seventh Five-Year Plan the capacity addition was 2100 megawatts and even during the Eight Five-Year Plan the shortage after 7th plan achievement was 3,333 megawatts. The total power generation capacity in the country in 1995-96 was stated to be 83,288 megawatts, but the power generation in the country has been increasing only at the rate of 7 to 8 per cent per year. Out of the total outlay of

Rs. 79,589 crores for the power sector in the Eighth Five-Year Plan, the Plan outlay for such an important and crucial Ministry as the Ministry of Power is only Rs. 25,920 crores. Even this amount is not being fully utilised. The likely expenditure during the first three years of the Eighth Five-Year Plan would be only 42 per cent at the all-India level and 48 per cent at the Central level. The Ministry of Power has not utilised the Annual Plan budgets year after year despite slow progress in power generation. Why is it that while the 1994-95 budget proposal for the Ministry of Power was Rs.7,163 crores, the revised estimate was Rs. 6,121 crores? There was a shortage of Rs. 1,042 crores. The real problem is that there is no seriousness and there is no accountability for failure.

The plant load factor in the country, as given by the Ministry itself, is 63 per cent. We should increases our plant load factor. Every megawatt capacity at 63 per cent plant load factor, should give power generation of 5.2 millions units per annum. On that basis, the capacity of 83,288 megawatts should give us 460 billion units of power per year as against 380 billion units given in the 1995-96 Annual Report. This also shows that the plant load factor of the non-thermal power plants is still lower. The total installed capacity of 60,087 megawatts in the thermal power sector at 63 per cent plant load factor should achieve power generation of 332 billion units, againt 300 billion units as shown by the Performance Budget of the Ministry.

In fact, we have a sizeable though not adequate, power generation capacity in our country even as per the Government reports. Proper maintenance, utilisation and management are crucial aspects to meet our growing demand. These have so far been neglected by the Government. No provision has been made in 1996-97 Budget to improve these important aspects. Mr. Minister, I find from the Budget that for additional power-generation capacity a lot of provision has been made, but not a single paisa has been provided for improvement of the plant load factor. I do not know the reason for this. Have we got the infrastructure to maintain and improve our plant load factor or not?

I was told by the previous Minister that the plant load factor which was 57 per cent, had improved during these years after a lot of effort. What has happened now? Are we going to give a go-by to this policy, or are we going to improve the plant load factor which, in my opinion, is the ultimate solution for the power crisis in this country?

Sir, another important reason for lower plant load factor is the use of poor quality of coal by power plant. All these new power projects, which have been sanctioned, according to the amended coal Nationalisation Act, can have their coal-mines, but I know what is happening in the Coal Ministry. Sometimes I believe, I am telling you in Hindi :

> "एक उल्लू काफी है, बरबाद गुलिस्तां करने को,
> हर साख पर उल्लू बैठा है अंजामे गुलिस्तां क्या होगा।"

My point is if we want to take money out of it, then how can we generate power? We have everything. We have the capacity, we have the coal, we have the technical knowhow. Even then we are far far lagging behind in power generation capacity. According to the Government information, 40,000 megawatts will be required in the Ninth Five-Year Plan. Taking into account the 8th plan shortage of about 13,000 megawatts, the total power gneration capacity that we will require is 53,000 megawatts. At the rate of Rs. 4.50 crores per megawatt, it will work out to Rs. 2,43,000 crores. Wherefrom are we going to get this money? Is it not better to improve our plant load factor than to go no adding only new plants and those too with lesser capacity? So, my suggestion is I think the Minister of Power will take note of it that there should be a serious though given to the programme of improvement of plants

load factor along with generation from new power plants. A serious thinking is required for this. Availability of coal in terms of quality, quantity and lesser cost is equally important. Thank you.

श्री गया सिंह (बिहार) : उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद। सब्र बहुत किया लेकिन आपने समय तो दे ही दिया। मैं आपके माध्यम से इस हाउस से चूंकि इस हाउस में कल से हम बहस कर रहे हैं, काफी माननीय सदस्यों ने बातों को, समस्याओं को यहां पर रख दिया इसलिए मैं उसको दोहराना नहीं चाहता हूं। सर, मैं याद दिलाना चाहता हूं क्योंकि अभी सौ दिन की इस मिनिस्ट्री से हम यह उम्मीद नहीं करते कि सौ साल का कोढ़ तीन महीने में पूरा कर दे। लेकिन हमारी दाहिनी साइड के साथी जब बोल रहे थे तो मुझे लग रहा था कि अभी छह महीने पहले उनकी जुबान बन्द थी, इतनी महत्वपूर्ण बात बता रहे थे, अच्छी बात बता रहे थे और उन्होंने बहुत ठिकाने से चीजों को रखा, तो लगा कि अगर ये पहले बोले होते तो शायद कुछ और स्थिति मे परिवर्तन हुआ होता। आजादी के बाद हम लोगों ने और पण्डित जवाहर लाल नेहरू जी ने सपना देखा था कि हम अपने देश को स्वावलम्बी बनाने के लिए जब तक बिजली पर आत्मनिर्भर नहीं होंगे तब तक हमारी तमाम समस्याएं हल नहीं हो सकतीं। हमारा देश कृषि प्रधान देश है और अस्सी प्रतिशत लोग गांवों में रहते हैं। गांव के लोग भागकर शहर में आ गये क्योंकि बिजली नहीं है। बिजली नहीं है तो सिंचाई नहीं हुई, बिजली नहीं है तो कृषि का उत्पादन नहीं बढ़ता है। हमने कहा था कि हरिजनों को, आदिवासयों को बिजली देंगे लेकिन बिजली का पोल गाढ़ दिया, तार लगा दिया परन्तु बिजली नहीं है तो गांव वालों ने खम्बा उठा लिया और बिजली की लाइन भी काट करके ले गये क्योंकि दो-तीन साल तक उसको लाइन नहीं मिली। गांव में उस खम्बे से रास्ता बना लिया और तार को काट लिया। आप आमतौर से कई राज्यों में गांव के अन्दर जाइये, एक तरफ बिजलीकरण हुआ और दूसरी तरफ तार और पोल सब उखाड़ करके ले गये। आप बड़े-बड़े राज्यों में जाइये जहां बिजली का उत्पादन ज्यादा है। उन राज्यों में भी हम कर्णाटक की चर्चा करना चाहते हैं। कर्णाटक में आज से दस साल पहले लोग खुश थे क्योंकि बिजली मिल रही थी। हाइडल पावर वहां पर बहुत है लेकिन आज कर्णाटक की अन्दर इण्डस्ट्रीज को भी बिजली नहीं मिल रही है। हाइडल पावर वहां पर बहुत है लेकिन आज कर्णाटक के अन्दर इण्डस्ट्रीज को भी बिजली नहीं मिल रही है वहां पर बहुत सारी इण्डस्ट्रीज बन्द हो रही हैं।

4.00 P.M.

PROF. NAUNIHAL SINGH (Uttar Pradesh) : If you don't minid, I would like to mention an incident in half-a-minute. I want to bring this thing to the notice of the House. The hon. Member has pointed out about the so-called electrification of villages and all that. I was in the Committee on Energy for the last four years. There was a Rural Electrification Corporation. I had put a question to the official of this Corportaion, "What is the definition of electrifying a village? He told me, "If there is a pole, it is deemed as electrified even if there is no wire." As a villager, I have seen the villages myself where there is only a pole, no wire. The question of electricity doesn't arise there. They have defined it as an electrified village. So, I would request the hon. Minister to kindly see that this kind of definition does not exist. There should be a genuine definition, not to hoodwink the people of India.

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री मोहम्मद सलीम) : नौनिहाल सिंह जी, आपने सही कहा और अगर ऐसी बात है तो मंत्री जी को देखना पड़ेगा।

श्री गया सिंह : कर्नाटक जैसे राज्य में भी हाइडल पावर के ऊपर काफी पहले से ध्यान दिया था, वहां आज इंडस्ट्रीज बन्द हो रही हैं। यदि पूरे देश की चर्चा की जाये तो उसके लिए समय नहीं है। बहुत से माननीय सदस्यों ने भी इसकी चर्चा की है। हमारे सामने जो कठिनाई है वह यह है कि वही 50 साल का कोढ़ है। लेकिन हमारे नौजवान मंत्री और संयुक्त मोर्चा की सरकार ने लोगों में जो आशा और इच्छा शक्ति जगाई है, वह सराहनीय है। मैं इस बारे में अपने कुछ सुझाव देना चाहता हूं। हमें भरोसा है इन पर। हमारे ये आक्सीजन देने वाले भाई, इनमें अपनी सरकार के समय में आक्सीजन नहीं थी, अब हमको आक्सीजन दे रहे हैं, यदि ये अपने समय में आक्सीजन देते तो ज्यादा अच्छा होता।

श्री महेश्वर सिंह : इनके पद चिह्नों पर मत चलिये।

श्री गया सिंह : मैं उसी पर आ रहा हूं। उसी बात पर हमारे एक माननीय सदस्य ने कहा, जो हमने उदारीकरण किया वह पांच साल में किया उसी रास्ते पर चलिये। अगर उस रास्ते पर हम चले तो अभी तो गांव में बिजली नहीं है फिर पार्लियामेंट को भी बिजली नहीं मिलेगी। मेरा मंत्री जी से यह सुझाव है कि उनके पद चिह्नों पर चलने की जरूरत नहीं है, जरूरत है पांच साल के अंदर प्रथम पंचवर्षीय योजना से आठवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना तक के आंकड़े देखिये। मैं यहां कोई आंकड़े नहीं देना चाहता हूं लेकिन किसी भी पंचवर्षीय योजना में बिजली के लक्ष्यों को पूरा नहीं किया गया। आठवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना मे जो लक्ष्य था वह अखबारों और टेलीविजन के माध्यम से दर्शाया गया कि हम प्राइवेटाइजेशन कर रहे हैं और रातों रात देशभर में बिजली लग जायेगी पांच साल, गुजर गये लेकिन क्या हुआ, जो हमारा लक्ष्य था उसको भी पूरा नहीं किया गया और कहते हैं कि उस प्रोजेक्ट को क्लियरेंस मिलने के लिए साधन और सोर्सेज नहीं थे इसलिए हम पूरा नहीं कर सके, टाइम लगा इसलिए हम पूरा नहीं कर सके। यह बात सही है, अभी अग्रवाल जी ने कहा कि दो लाख करोड़ से ज्यादा खर्चा किया, साधन नहीं है। इसलिए मैं सुझाव देना चाहता हूं कि आज रेलवे को पावर प्लांट बनाने की छूट दीजिए। उससे दो फायदे होंगे, एक आपकी बिजली की बचत होगी। और हम जो विदेशों से तेल मंगाते है, उससे बारह हजार करोड़ के तेल की भी बचत होगी। वह पैसा इंडस्ट्रीज आदि में लग सकता है। छोटे और मझौले उद्योग आज यह चाहते हैं कि ऐसे पावर प्लांट बनाने के लिए आप उनको लाइसेंस दीजिये। उससे आपका खर्चा बचेगा। जो लक्ष्य है उसको पूरा करिये ताकि अगर आप योजना बनायेंगे तो हमको भरोसा है कि हम उस लक्ष्य को पूरा कर सकेंगे और हमारी सरकार उस ओर जायेगी। एक बात मैं और कहना चाहता हूं।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री मोहम्मद सलीम) : समय की भी कमी है।

श्री एस० एस० अहलुवालिया : गया सिंह जी कभी-कभी बोलते हैं, उनको बोलने दीजिये।

श्री गया सिंह : मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि एन० टी० पी० सी० की हम इस हाउस में प्रशंसा करना चाहते है आठवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना में इस सैक्टर ने अपने लक्ष्य को पूरा किया है। उसकी परफोर्मेंश भी अच्छी है। आप उसको हाइडल की ओर बढ़ने की इजाजत दीजिये। कोयले की प्राब्लम इस देश में आने वाले दस सालों में इतनी ज्यादा हो जायेगी जिसका कोई ठिकाना नहीं है। आपसे अनुरोध है कि आप थर्मल पावर की ओर ध्यान न देकर हाइडल पावर की ओर ध्यान दें ताकि हमारे पास जितना कोयला है वह पर्याप्त हो।

लेकिन उसके चलते प्रोडक्शन कम हुआ है। अगर पिछले पांच सालों का सर्वे कराया जाए तो चाहे स्टेट इलेक्ट्रिसिटी बोर्ड हों या सेंट्रल बोर्ड हों—हमारा जो दामोदर वेली प्रोजेक्ट है, जो कोयले की बगल में है उसका भी पूरा उत्पादन नहीं हो पाता। इसके और भी कई कारण हैं। इसलिए मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी से यह कहना चाहता हूं, अभी वे नए हैं लेकिन हमको भरोसा है, हालांकि अभी वे समझ रहे हैं, लेकिन वे इस हाउस को कांफिडेंस में लेकर, साधन की कमी होने के बावजूद आप अपनी इच्छा शक्ति जरा लगायेंगे तो हमारा ख्याल है कि बिजली के सवाल पर सभी लोगों का समर्थन आपको मिलेगा और इस समर्थन के आधार पर आपकी प्रगति होगी। इसके साथ देश की प्रगति जुड़ी हुई है। हमको आशा है, हमारे अहलुवालिया जी मजा ले रहे हैं लेकिन अब अफसोस करने से कुछ होने वाला नहीं है। एक कहावत है कि "जब चिड़िया चुग गई खेत" अब बोलने से कुछ होने वाला नहीं है, इसलिए कि अब पलटा बदल गया है और संयुक्त मोर्चे की सरकार आ गई है। यह सरकार चलेगी। आप भी पीछे चलो और देखो कि हम क्या करते हैं। धन्यवाद।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री मोहम्मद सलीम): श्री मूलचन्द मीणा। बिल्कुल संक्षेप में बोलेंगे आप।

श्री मूलचन्द मीणा (राजस्थान): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, हाउस में जिस सबजेक्ट पर विचार हो रहा है, वह बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण है। श्री परमेश्वर कुमार अग्रवाल जी ने कई आंकड़े दिए, कई पंचवर्षीय योजनाओं की बात की। लेकिन वे साथ ही एक बात और कह गए कि हमारी जो पावर नीति है, जो विद्युत नीति है वह सक्सेसफुल नहीं हुई। मैं अग्रवाल जी से निवेदन करना चाहूंगा कि देश की आजादी के पहले अगर कहीं बिजली दिखाई देती थी तो वह बहुत बड़े शहरों के अंदर या एजाओं के महलों में दिखाई देती थी। लेकिन आजादी के बाद यह विद्युत नीति का ही परिणाम है कि आज हमको गली-गली, धाणी-धाणी बिजली के बल्ब जलते हुए दिखाई देते हैं। यह हमारी बिजली नीति का परिणाम है। चाहे हमने थर्मल पावर स्टेशन लगाये, चाहे हाइडल पावर प्लान्ट लगाए हों हमने बिजली का उत्पादन बढ़ाया। इसी का परिणाम आज यह है कि बिजली हमारे जीवन के हर स्तर की आवश्यकता बन गई है। आज

हिन्दुस्तान जिसको किसानों का देश कहते हैं, गांवों का देश कहते हैं उसके लिए आज बिजली बहुत आवश्यक हो गई है क्योंकि आज खेती के लिए, खेती का हर कार्य करने के लिए बिजली बहुत ही आवश्यक है। जब तक इस देश के किसानों को बिजली सही समय पर और सही रूप में नहीं मिलती है तब तक देश का विकास नहीं हो सकता। इसके लिए पिछली सरकारों पर दोषारोपण किया जाता है। लेकिन यह गलत है। हमारे उत्पादन की जो क्षमता है, क्षमता हमारी है लेकिन उसको हम दुह नहीं सकते हैं। हमारी आर्थिक स्थिति कमजोर है, इसके कारण हम पूरी तरह से बिजली का उत्पादन नहीं कर पा रहे हैं। इसके लिए सरकार को योजना बनानी चाहिए और हमें ज्यादा से ज्यादा चाहे गैर-सरकारी क्षेत्र को बजिली उत्पादन का कार्य दें और चाहे सरकारी स्तर पर इसको करें लेकिन बिजली उत्पादन पर हम ज्यादा से ज्यादा पैसा खर्च करें ताकि हम देश के लोगों को बिजली दे सकें। साथ ही मैं एक बात अपनी स्टेट के बारे में कहना चाहूंगा। धौलपुर के अंदर बिजली के लिए एक कोयला बेस्ड योजना पर काम होने वाला था।

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल: अब वह नेप्था बेस्ड हो गई है, कोयला बेस्ड नहीं है।

श्री मूल चन्द मीणा: यह प्रोजेक्ट लगने वाला था, आज से करीब 5-6 साल पहले वह प्रोजेक्ट केन्द्र सरकार से स्वीकृत हुआ था। लेकिन उसका पता नहीं कि वह कहां गया। वह प्रोजक्ट लगा ही नहीं। तो मैं यह चाहूंगा और मंत्री जी से निवेदन करना चाहूंगा कि राजस्थान जैसी स्टेट के अंदर जो सबसे गरीब स्टेट मानी जाती है बिजली के क्षेत्र में, वहां के बिजली बोर्डों की हालत भी ठीक नहीं है, उसकी ओर ध्यान दिया जाए।

मैं एक निवेदन आप से यह करना चाहता हूं कि आज से करीब पांच साल पहले राजस्थान के अंदर जो सरकार थी, वह सरकार 25 रुपए की दरख्वास्त पर किसानों को बिजली का कनेक्शन दे देती थी। लेकिन पांच साल बाद वह सरकार बदल गई। जो सरकार उसके बाद आई वह किसान विरोधी है और इस कारण आज एक किसान को एक बिजली का कनेक्शन लेने के लिए एक हजार रुपए अप्लीकेशन पर लगाने पड़ते हैं। जो कनेक्शन किसानों को पहले 25 रुपए में मिलता था आज वह एक हजार रुपए में मिल रहा है। जो पांच हार्स पावर की मोटर अपने कुएं पर लगाता था सरकार उसको पांच खम्बे फ्री लगा कर देती थी और आज एक खम्बे की कीमत 11 हजार रुपये ली जाती है। **(व्यवधान)**

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल: आप फ्री देते थे इसीलिए तो जनता ने आपको चलता कर दिया।

श्री मूलचन्द मीणा: मैं परमेश्वर कुमार अग्रवाल जी की बात पर आ रहा हूं। आपकी सरकार की नीति बिजली देने की है लेकिन आप देना ही नहीं चाहते हैं। आज आप किसान से एक खम्बे के लिए 11 हजार रुपये लेते हैं जबकि पांच साल पहले जो सरकार थी वह पांच हार्स पावर की मोटर लगाने पर पांच खम्बे फ्री लगा कर देती थी। आज उन्हीं खम्बों की कीमत 55 हजार रुपये किसानों को देनी पड़ेगी। इसका मतलब यह है कि वहां बैठी हुई सरकार का उद्देश्य गरीब किसानों को बिजली का कनेक्शन देना ही नहीं है क्योंकि एक कनेक्शन के लिए एक लाख रुपये खर्च करेगा तब उसको कनेक्शन मिलेगा। वहां की सरकार की नीति ऐसी है कि उसको कनेक्शन मिले ही नहीं क्योंकि आज किसान कनेक्शन के लिए एक लाख रुपया खर्च कर ही नहीं सकता। इसलिए मैं यह चाहूंगा कि आप हस्तक्षेप करें और बिजली पहुंचाने के लिए किसानों की मदद करें और कनेक्शन देने के लिए वहां की सरकार को कहें। जो लक्ष्य निर्धारित करें उसके आधार पर किसानों को रिलीफ देने के लिए जो पुरानी सरकार की किसानों को बिजली उपलब्ध कराने की नीति है उसको फिर से कायम करें तब जा कर राजस्थान के किसान को बिजली मिल सकती है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं एक निवेदन और करना चाहूंगा। केन्द्रीय सरकार के माध्यम से बिजली की नीति बनाई गई थी कि शैड्यूल्ड कॉस्ट और शैड्यूल्ड ट्राइब्स बस्तियों के अन्दर बिजली पहुंचाई जाए, समाज कल्याण विभाग द्वारा उनके बिजली का खर्च वहन किया जाए। लेकिन मेरी समझ में नहीं आता, आज हिन्दुस्तान के एरियाज़ का आप सर्वे कराएं तो आपको पता चलेगा कि शैड्यूल्ड कॉस्ट और शैड्यूल्ड ट्राइब्स के नाम पर कई जनरल कॉस्ट की बस्तियों के अन्दर बिजली दे दी गई और शैड्यूल्ड कॉस्ट और शैड्यूल्ड ट्राइब्स बस्तियों में बिजली पहुंची नहीं। यदि इस प्रकार किया गया है, इस नीति का दुरुपयोग किया गया है बिजली देने में तो उन अधिकारियों के खिलाफ कार्यवाही की जाए जिन्होंने इस नीति का दुरुपयोग किया है। हमारे देश के प्रधानमंत्री किसानों को बिजली में राहत देने के लिए काफी घोषणाएं करते हैं। मैं एक ही निवेदन करना चाहूंगा कि मंत्री जी आप हाऊस में घोषणा करें कि इस देश के शैड्यूल्ड कॉस्ट और शैड्यूल्ड ट्राइब्स को आप सस्ती दर पर बिजली देंगे चाहे कितना भी खर्च

करना पड़े। आप इस बात की घोषणा करें। प्रधानमंत्री जी सारे देश के किसानों की बात करते हैं, मैं आपसे निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि शैड्यूल्ड कॉस्ट और शैड्यूल्ड ट्राइब्स किसानों के लिए आप बिजली कनेक्शन देने के लिए कनसेशनल रेट की घोषणा करें।

महोदय, बिजली का हम जितना उत्पादन कर रहे हैं, खपत उससे अधिक बढ़ रही है लेकिन खपत बढ़ने के साथ-साथ बिजली की चोरी भी बहुत हो रही है। बिजली की चोरी को रोकने के लिए आपको कदम उठाना चाहिये। आज गांव-गांव के अन्दर अनआथोराइज्ड रूप से बिजली जलती है, कोई कनेक्शन लेता नहीं है। किसी ने कनेक्शन ले भी लिया तो वह बेचारा कनेक्शन कटवा देता है क्योंकि दूसरे लोगों के घरों में बिना पैसे दिये बिजली जलती है और उसको पैसा देना पड़ता है इसलिए उसने अपना कनेक्शन कटवा दिया। आज लोगों की बिजली चोरी करने की आदत सी बन गई है। गांव का आदमी चोरी नहीं करता लेकिन आपके लाइन मैन और जे०ई० मिल कर उन लोगों से चोरी करवाते हैं। इसलिए आप इस चोरी पर कंट्रोल करवाईये। दूसरा मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहूंगा..

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री मोहम्मद सलीम): दूसरा या आखिरी।

श्री मूलचन्द मीणा: लास्ट समझ लीजिये। मैं निवेदन करना चाहूंगा कि आप कटौती की बात करते हैं तो किसानों की बिजली की कटौती करते हैं, उद्योगों की बिजली कटौती नहीं करते हैं जबकि इस देश की आर्थिक स्थिति का मूल आधार किसान है। मैं निवेदन करना चाहूंगा कि आप किसानों की बिजली की कटौती नहीं करें बल्कि किसानों को चार महीने बिजली की आवश्यकता पड़ती है उसको इन चार महीनों में 12 घंटे के हिसाब से लगातार बिजली दीजिये। आप उद्योगों की बिजली की कटौती कीजिये लेकिन आपकी पॉलिसी उल्टी है। आप किसानों की बिजली की कटौती करते हैं। उद्योगों की बिजली की कटौती नहीं करते हैं क्योंकि उनसे ऊपर तक कंटेक्ट रहता है, उंचाति खाते में कंटेक्ट रहता है। इसलिए मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहूंगा कि किसानों को 12 घंटे बिजली मिलती रहे, इस प्रकार की पॉलिसी को आप सख्ती से लागू करें तब जा कर देश के किसान का विकास हो सकेगा और बिजली की आवश्यकता पूरी हो सकेगी, वह यह महसूस कर सकेगा कि उसकी आवश्यकता पूरी हुई। यह मैं निवेदन करना चाहता हूं। धन्यवाद।

SHRI JOY NADUKKARA (Kerala): Thank you very much, Sir, for allowing me to participate in the discussion. I would only raise a few points. Sir, I am coming from the State of Kerala which is the worst affected State by the present power situation. The national average of power deficit is 9.2 whereas in our State it is 14.3. Sir, in the western region it is 4.9, in the northern region it is 6.2 whereas it is 16.7 in the southern region of which Kerala is a member. So, we have to improve the present position and I am only suggesting one or two things.

The first thing is that we have to control the transmission and distribution losses. As of now, the national transmission and distribution losses are between 21 per cent and 23 per cent. If we are able to bring it down to below 10 per cent, naturally there would be a saving of 13 per cent or up to 13 per cent. Sir, the national average of power deficit is only 9.2. By saving from this alone we can improve our power situation.

And my second suggestion is, we have to check the theft of electricity. As many of my friends siad here, in the domestic consumption field and in the industrial sector also this theft of electricity going on; By effective supervision and control we can check the theft of electricity and by that we can save a lot.

And thirdly, modernisation of the existing projects is also a better way to generate cheaper electricity because if we are investing in new projects, the investment will be high. But for the modernisation of the existing projects the cost will be less and so we can generate electricity at a lesser cost.

As regards the new projects, I suggest that delays in giving clearances to new projects must be avoided. I may cite an example, Sir. In our State, the Pooyamkutty Project was denied clearance recently. The application for the project was submitted in 1981 and recently the Central Government

informed that the project was denied clearance and for the denial of clearance it took fifteen years. For denial if it took fifteen years, what will be the time that it will take for giving clearance? Sir, the delay in the execution of the projects must be avoided. The work on the Thankpur project was scheduled to be commissioned in 1988 but it could be commissioned only in 1992. The project cost was shot up to be Rs. 401.3 crores as against the estimated project cost Rs. 195.85 crores. A typical example of such a delay in the execution is the irrigation project in our State, the Kalada project. It started work 35 years back and

China. In 50 years the power generation. in China has gone up tremendously as compared to India. Our power generation today is 83,000 megawatts whereas China's is 2,00,000 megawatts. Their population is hardly 1.3 times, less than $1\frac{1}{2}$ times, of ours. There is a very wide gap. China in the last ten years of liberalisation has made very big strides and they could provide power to their industries. The hon. Prime Minister had stated on the floor of this House that so far as he was concerned, power was a subject of greatest interest, when he assured us that the Congentrix and the Enron projects would be cleared very fast. But the allocations do not bear it out. In hydel we have the largest potential in our country. We have been able to tap only 16% of the total potential available in this country. Some hon. Members have said that coal reserves are likely to be exhausted. In the Himalayas water is such a big source which is practically inexhaustible. A lot of effort has to be made to make investments in hydel. As regards financial allocations, we have been going down year after year. In 1994-95 the actual allocation was Rs. 2,420 crores. In the next year the Budget Estimate was Rs. 1,972 crores. The Revised Estimate was less than that, that is, Rs. 1,824 crores. In the Budget for 1996-97 the allocation is Rs. 1,609 crores. I don't know how this bears out the desire of the hon. Prime Minister. A lot has to be done. I hope the hon. Minister will explain how they plan to achieve the higher targets which are going down every successive year. One of the reasons given is that there is a delay in the supply of equipment. BHEL is not able to supply the equipment. If the whole programme of electrification and electricity generation is going to depend on BHEL, God save us! BHEL has got a lot of commitments abroad also. They will not be able to meet all the requirements of the country.

On top of it they say that the BHEL is not making supplies because they are not paid by Electricity Boards. It is a riddle. This is a Catch-22 situation. Who comes first, I do not know. The hon. Minister may kindly reply to it.

Then there are slippages in target fulfilment year after year. According to the Performance Budget, in the gross budgetary support the total Plan Outlay 1995-96 was Rs. 6,923 crores. But in 1996-97 it has been reduced to Rs. 6,790 crores. Last year, the external assistance was Rs. 1.907 crores and this year it has been reduced to Rs. 1,505 crores. In capacity addition the target was 1,351 megawatts but the actual is only 806 megawatts. This has everything to do the project cost was Rs.13.5 crores. Even now it is not completed. So, for we have invested about 490 crores of rupees for that, but it is not yet completed. According to the experts, it would require Rs. 400 crorers more for the completion of the project. That is a typical example of how the delay is costing us. As regards the SEBs, we all know that most of the State Electricity Boards are runnng at a loss. Some of the SEBs are demanding a raise in the tariff rates for their betterment. But by effective management and avoidance of unnecessary expenses and corruption we can improve the performance of the State Electricity Boards.

Lastly, I may say two things about my State of Kerala. One is regarding the

clearance of the Pooyamkutty project. Clearance to this project was denied recently on environmental grounds. If that is the problem, we can solve it. If demage to trees are the problem, we can plant trees at an alternative site. So, my submission is that the Government must reconsider that project and give clearance to that. So also is the case with the Kayamkulam Thermal Plant. It seems that the final clearance is given to Kayamkulam Thermal Plant. The Government must take steps to speed up the work and complete it as early as possible. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL (Maharashtra): Mr. Vice-Chairman, while speaking on the working of the Ministry of Power, I treat Govt. as countinuity will change. So, all the ills of the previous Government cannot be just brushed aside and the present Government, if it cannot answer them, can at least proceed forward to avoid those ills. I don't want to compare India with small countries which are geographically small like our districts. But I would like to compare India with with any Government. Slippages are very big and very large. I don't know how the Minister will overcome this position. There is no mention of it. I would like to know what steps are being taken to change this scenario.

In the case of hydel in 1995-96 the Plan Outlay was Rs. 421 crores and the actual allocation was Rs. 147 crores. In the case of thermal the Plan Outlay was Rs. 929 crores, the actual allocation was Rs. 659 crores. The target is Rs. 1,725 crores. It is three times more. I hope the hon. Minister would explain it. I would like to know how this three-times-more target has been finalised.

I would like to clear one myth. There is a myth that the losses of Electricity Boards are due to subsidies and subsidised tariff. It is generally accepted as gospel truth. The SEBs have taken shelter under this.

The Transmission and Distribution, T&D, losses, about which so many hon. Members have spoken, are 22 per cent against 2 or 3 per cent in developed countries. Out of this the technical loss is only three per cent and the remaining 19 per cent loss is unaccounted. This administrative loss is either due to non-billing or due to non-recovery. A lot has been said about it. I don't want to repeat it again. Administrative inefficiency is something which has to be looked into very deeply. There is a pot which you are filling by generation but there is a hole at the bottom from where leakage is taking place.

I would like to say a word about privatisation. I think increasing the generation without plugging these loopholes is like putting a cart before the horse. If you generate more and if the Transmission and Distribution cannot take care of it, how will this power be among the users for whom we are clamouring here? We are working for the common man. There is an urgent need to privatise the distribution and then transmission along with the generation.

In DESU alone, as many hon. Members have said, 45 per cent is distribution loss. The story is the same, more or less, in every State. There is an urgent need to consider the privatisation of distribution. I am told that five years back a high-level Committee of the Government of India recommended privatisation of distribution network of DESU to start with.

There is no explanation given for what unknown reasons was the privatisation effort was not made? I would request the hon. Minister to look into this. If he is going to change the track, let him change the track nearer home, that is, in Delhi itself. You must look into the old proposals and take a bold step, a bold initiative to privatise the distribution network. There are private companies like the TATAs and the BSES which are running very profitably. They do not make any loss. They pay dividends. They have high

reserves.. How is it that only the SEBs make a loss? We can learn a lesson from these companies. We can send a study team to study these companies and take some corrective steps. I welcome the suggestion of the hon. Minister to phase out naphtha. Naphtha is an imported fuel. We do not have it. We have hydel power. We have coal. If we import fuel from abroad, it will cut into our economic progress. That is a good step and I welcome it. This should be further strengthened. A last word on the Central Electricity Authority. It is a high-level authority of the Government of India. In our hurry to clear projetcs we should not vacillate like a pendulum. The Central Electricity Authority has highly qualified technical people. They have integrity. The examine the proposals. If there are any objections, we should ask entrepreneurs to clear the objections.. These people are doing a good job. The projects should not be cleared randomly just because we are in a hurry. They can look after the national interest. They have an over-view of the country's requirement. They look above local interests. I would urge upon the Minister to strengthen their hands and not to abandon them.

SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT (Gujarat): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir all the hon. Members who have participated in the debate on electricity have stressed the need for making more and more power available in the country. I feel that electicity must have a place only next to defence. Defence should be the first priority for many country. That is obvious. But after defence, the next important thing is electricity. Without electricity, nothing can be done. There can be no movement. I hope the United Front Government thinks on these lines. Sir, what is the source of electricity? We get electricity from the Electricity Boards and the National Thermal Power Corporation. The contribution of the private sector is negligible. Let us not forget that the wheels of industry, the pumps of agriculturists, the train which move and even the light in this House, every unit of power, is supplied by the Electricity Boards and the National Thermal Power Corporation. In spite of that, somebody said in the House that the performance of the Electricity Boards was miserable. What do you mean by miserable performance? Are the Electricity Boards allowed to function independently? They have said that there should be a profit of three per cent. The Electricity Board is an autonomous body. It has to function on commercial lines. Are we allowing the Electricity Boards to function independently? No Government in the country, neither the Central Government nor the State Government allow the Electricity Board to function on commercial lines.

We are talking aobut power politics in the Central Hall. But there is politics of power. The rate of unit of power is decided by whom? It is not decided by Electricity Boards. It is decided by bosses of State Governments, and the Central Government is simply helpless. The Central Government is not in a position to come to the aid, assistance, of Electricity Boards. We are all aware that 30 to 40 per cent of power is given to agriculturists. Hon. Pranab Mukherjee said that at the Power Minister's Conference it was decided that the minimum rate of power per unit to agriculturists should be 50 paise. No State Electricity Board is allowed to do that. Every State Government says "No, nothing doing. We have to help the agricultural sector. Then what about the subsidy? Are the State Governments giving subsidy? No State Government is giving subsidy which is due to Electricity Boards. I would suggest to the Government, let this Government take a bold step. If the earlier Government had not taken it, forget it. I know that they have not done. But I know the pinch of the Electricity Boards because I have run an Electricity Board. Therefore, I am saying that whatever amount is due from the Central Government to any State Government, leave out the amount of

subsidy to be given to the Electricity Board and give it directly to the Electricity Board so that it can function commercially. Electricity Boards are not allowed to function commercially. They go on blaming them without knowing their difficulties.

The other important point, in my submission, is about fuel policy. In January, 1993, there was a Power Ministers' Conference. In that Conference, the discussion was on national fuel policy. I raised the issue. I said, "You talk of national power policy. Yes, there has to be a national power policy. But without a national fuel policy, can there be a national power policy?" What is our fuel policy? We have no fuel policy. What are we doing? We have cross-transportation of fuel in this country. In a poor country like India, can we afford to do this? Coal is taken from the Eastern side to the western side. And what is the distance? The distance is 1,000 kms. or 1,200 kms. or even 1,500 kms. Sir, the cost of coal is less than the cost of freight. That is the difficulty. If the cost of coal is 45 per cent, the cost of freight is 55 per cent. What about gas? We are taking gas from the Western side to the Eastern side. Again, there is cross-transportation of fuel in this country. I believe that a poor country like India cannot afford this cross-transportation of fuel. I am sorry to say that the Power Ministry has hopelessly failed to support and help the Electricity Board of the country. Electricity Board is the spinal cord so far as power sector is concerned. We say that Draupadi had five husbands. But an Electricity Board has seven. It has to move from one Department to another, say, from Power Ministry to Coal Ministry, to Railway Ministry, to Petroleum Ministry, to Environment Ministry and then to forest and Environment Ministry. Will this Govenrment think of having some coordination? There is total non-coordination among all these departments is our country. Therefore, the Electricity Board has to move from pillar to post, go to different Ministries and request them to give this clearance and that clearance. Nobody attends to this problem, the problem of total non-coordination. Anyway, after talking about fuel policy, I would say that the NTPC and done a good job. Let it have a joint venture with the Electricity Board. Let it select an Electricity Board of its choice. The NTPC and the Electricity Board can put up a power station at the pit-head. This is a very important point. Hon. Shri Dipankar Mukherjee, told me that he had discussed this point. If a power station is put up at the pit-head of the mine where coal is available, at the place where fuel is available, then power as such can be transmitted to any State. This is easier as well as more economical. It is very costly to transmit coal from a distance of, say, 1,500 kms. But transmitting power from one place to another is not that costly. I also submit that there is the Power Grid Corporation of India. It is going to charge 22 per cent for wheelling. It is a very high. It should not try to take money from the Electricity Board and the consumers. It can take two to five per cent. Five per cent is enough. Unfortunately, in this context, I must tell the hon. Minister that there has been no Chairman or Managing Director of the Power Grid Corporation for the last one year. There is nobody to head the Power Grid Corporation. That post is lying vacant since Mr. Narayanan retired. Nobody was appointed in his place. This is the postion of the Power Grid Corporation of this country. Therefore, my submission is that whatever might have been said about power TGD losses, 20 per cent or 25 per cent, most of it is theft. The technical losses, the auxiliary losses are about ten per cent and that is possible. That is not impossible. That is not even much I request the Government that if it wants to curb the power theft, then it should amend the Electricity (Supply) Act of 1948. It should give the biting teeth to the Electricity Boards to disconnect the supply of power to the consumer — it may be an industry, it may be domestic, it may be agricultural or it may be any

other. Whoever commits theft, the connection of that particular consumer should be disconnected. That power to disconnect under the Act should be given to the State Electricity Boards so that it can take necessary steps to control power thefts. Most of the Members have said about power thefts. Has anybody informed the State Electricity Board that a particular industry is committing power thefts? If a power theft is found out and the power connection is cut off, the MLAs and those who are in power go and force the Electricity Boards to reconnect the power. They say, "Don't disconnect it; take money in instalments—don't take money immediately". That is the way we are doing it. So, give power to the Electricity Boards to disconnect the power supply for 30 days. If a strict measure like this, that at least for 30 days power supply will stand disconnected is taken, then I can assure you that there will be a deterrent effect on those who are committing thefts, those who are encourging thefts and those who are helpless and negligent spectators of these thefts....*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): Please conclude.

SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Sir, finally I would like to say that the NTPC has given a very good performance. Mr. Rajendra Singh, the Chairman of the NTPC, is known to me. Now he is the Chairman of the NTPC. Here I would like to submit that the quality of coal supplied is of the worst type. This issue has already been discussed in this House. Therefore, I will not take much time of the House. Slippage of the grade is a general practice now. The bill is given for B-grade coal, but actually D-grade coal is supplied. The bill is forcibly taken away from the Electricity Boards and joint-sampling is not going on. Mr. Power Minister, you may kindly note that the joint-sampling was going on at the power station end at the time of Shri P.A. Sangama, the then Coal Minister. When Shri Ajit Panja became the Coal Minister he removed it. This is a crime. The Electricity Boards must investigate into sampling. Is the Consumer Protection Act applicable to the Government or not? Please tell me. It is not fair if you are not given a particular grade of coal for which you have been charged. Let us be honest to the Electricity Boards and charge them the price of the coal which you are giving to them. I know that the Ministry of Power is helpless in this regard. I have requested the Ministry of Power that they should tell the Ministry of Coal that they should not give this type of coal and charge for higher grade of coal, but the Ministry of Power is helpless. They said that they cannot tell this thing to that Ministry.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): Mr. Bhatt, you have to conclude now. If you have anything else, then you can give the same in writing to the Minister.

SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Sir, I am going to finish. Therefore, let there be a total co-ordination for good generation, for good performance of the Electricity Board and for good future of the electricity scenario of the whole country. Only then the situation will improve; otherwise, to me, unfortunately, whatever position is there today, there is hardly going to be any difference, Sir.

श्री नरेश यादव (बिहार): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, आपने विद्युत मंत्रालय पर हो रही चर्चा में मुझे बोलने का अवसर दिया, मैं आपका आभारी हूं। महोदय, आपके माध्यम से मैं माननीय मंत्री जी का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूं कि बिहार में कॉयल कारो विद्युत परियोजना केन्द्र सरकार के पास वर्षों से लम्बित है। राज्य सरकार ने केन्द्र सरकार के द्वारा जो-जो शर्तें रखी थीं, सारी शर्तों को पूरा करने के आश्वासन के बावजूद अभी तक भी इस परियोजना की मंजूरी केन्द्र सरकार से नहीं दी गई है। महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से आग्रह करना चाहता हूं कि बिहार में विद्युतिकरण को सफल बनाने के लिए इसे मंजूरी दी जाए। केन्द्र में यू० एफ० सरकार है और उन्होंने गांवों और किसानों पर ज्यादा ध्यान दिया है। इसलिए बिहार के सभी गांवों में

ही नहीं बल्कि देश के सभी गांवों में विद्युतिकरण हो। इसलिए विलेज के मामले में एलोकेशन बढ़ाना चाहिए। यही मेरा आपसे कहना है। आपने मुझे बोलने का अवसर दिया, इसके लिए बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री मोहम्मद सलीम): मंत्री जी, आप जवाब देंगे। लेकिन इससे पहले कितनी देर लगेगी आपको जवाब देने में मुझे नहीं मालूम। पांच बजे हाफ-एन-आँवर डिस्कशन है। मंत्री जी जब जवाब खत्म करेंगे उसके बाद हाफ-एन-आँवर डिस्कशन लेंगे पांच बजे के बजाय।

Mr. Ahluwalia, whenever you are in association with Mr. Das Gupta, you create some mischief.

SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: He is saying that I am in the Opposition. He cannot sit there if I am in the Opposition.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): Thank you, Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir. Even though money demands are dealt with in the Lok Sabha, on the 100th day of the United Front Government, the debate entered the Ministry of Power in the Rajya Sabha. I am very happy that it is continuing on the 101st day also. Sir, I am happy that Members are discussing an important subject like power and I am grateful to them. I am grateful to the seventeen Members who participated in the discussion, particularly Shri S. B. Chavan, Prof. Naunihal Singh, Shri Prem Chand Gupta, Urmilaji, Maheshwar Singhji, Kumarji, Narayanasamigaru, Shri Ramachandra Reddy, Shri Dutta, Shri Parmeshwar Agarwalla, Shri Gaya Singh, Shri Meena, Shri Joy Nadukkara, Goyalji, Shri Brahmakumar Bhatt and finally Shri Naresh Yadav. I am grateful to the Members who have participated this very purposeful discussion and given suggestions, like restructuring electricity boards and uniform agricultural tariff, the scenario in the power sector and what we are facing presently. Before attempting to answer queries by the hon. Members, at the outset, I just want to emphasise the power scenario from my Department's point of view. As the House is fully aware, we need much more electricity than what we are able to produce, especially in regard to peak time shortages. Almost all the Members have spoken about it. Realising the situation, that it cannot be allowed to continue as electricity is the basic thing for overall development, we are taking a variety of measures both in the short-run and long-run to meet the challenge. I would like to highlight the short-term strategy. Our major objective is to increase the plant load factor. Almost all the hon. Members have emphasised about this plant load factor. The plant load factor of thermal power stations accounts for 70% generation in the country. In the last year we added 300 billion units and then 80 billion units. Sir, our PLF has gone up from 57.1 per cent in 1991-92 to 63 per cent in 1995-96 and we have set for ourselves a target of 64 per cent during the current year. As was mentioned by several distinguished Members today and yesterday, an increase in PLF by one per cent means an increased generation of almost four thousand million units or four billion units annually, which translates into about a thousand megawatts of new capacity operting at about 60 per load factor and to creat it at today's prices means an investment of Rs. 4,000 crores and a gestation period of four to five years. About the performance of our stations, particularly in the Central sector——and I thank the hon. Members for appreciating the NTPC as well as the Central Sector——Sir, the Central Sector is comparable to the international standards and it is approximately 85 per cent. Our Central utilities like NTPC as a whole had a PLF of almost 80 per cent. In some cases, the State sector, like Kota in Rajasthan and Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh has also recorded similar high levels of plant load factor. If we had a little more coal available, we could have recorded another 2 per cent increase in the PLF. Sir, in the State sector, I would submit for the information of the House,

that many units in the State sector are old and small in size. The State Electricity Boards are unable to utilise their capacity fully because of liquidity problem which they are facing. Many of the problems are connected with the high levels of receivables stemming from the inability of State-owned Departments and undertakings to clear their electricity dues to the SEBs which in the year of 1995 had reached a figure of almost 30 per cent of their annual billing, that is, about Rs. 8,000 crores.

Sir, we are addressing it openly and are issuing the guidelines to the State Electricity Boards. We are regularly monitoring the renovation and modernisation of existing plants. This can result as the hon. Members know, in quicker generation at a less cost compared to new investment. Sir, the Power Finance Corporation is under my Ministry. It is giving the highest importance and releasing the funds which are required by the State Electricity Boards.

As a long term strategy, we certainly need to add more capacity. In this regard, Sir, I fully share the concern of the House about our inability to achieve the capacity addition programme of 30,538 MW during the Eighth Plan and to be able to achieve only 60 per cent of it. I am not going to give any long explanation for this shortfall except to submit that power projects have long gestation periods and results of investments made in the earlier Plan periods are felt in the subsequent Plans. It is , however, true that even in this Plan period there was a slowing down of investments, particularly by the States, when we had opened the sector to private participation in 1991. Many States thought that they could start diverting the money allocated for power to other uses. But, unfortunately, this had an adverse effect on the capacity addition programme. It is, however, not that no private sector investment has taken place and there is no new capacity added in the private sector. In the first four years——because so many Members have spoken and I will give answer one by one and I am telling this in general——1400 MW of capacity has come through this route and we are expecting another 600 to 700 MW of capacity to be added during the current year. Work on 15 private projects is currently going on and we expect to add about 4000 MW of new capacity in the country on their completion. Our opening up to the private sector made people think that if a large investment comes up in the private sector, perhaps, the public sector investment could be diverted elsewhere. I think this was somewhat a myopic approach and it had an adverse effect on capacity creation. Our requirement is so large that not one single source could fully meet it. Even if private sector investment starts flowing in greater measure in the field of generation, we would need to make substantial investment in the field of transmission and distribution which we have neglected hitherto.

Sir, all these years since Independence, we have been concentrating only on the generation side. Whatever amount we have spent on generation, the same amount we have not spent on the transmission and distribution side. This is also one reason.

We need to ensure that the Plan allocation for the power sector this year, as well as in the Ninth Plan, is kept high. Also, all possible incentives and facilities should be given to the private sector—both domestic and off-shore—so that they can invest in this sector.

As part of the long-term strategy, we are also seeking to integrate the country into a unified grid so that power can flow from a surplus region to a deficit region, without our having to set up capacity for generation in each region, which may be expensive. Certain hon. Members have raised this issue. Particularly, the Member from the North-East made a

reference to it. Sir, the Power Grid Corporation which was set up a few years ago is working assiduously towards establishing a unified national grid.

I have mentioned about the power scenario. Hon. Members made certain points in this regard. Chavanji raised the question of growth in the power sector. I would like to point out that power generation in the first four years has grown by about 7 per cent annually. During the first four months of 1996-97 (April to July, 1996) the rate of growth was 2.1 per cent over the same period during last year.

I have mentioned about capacity addition in the Eighth Plan. The shortfall is, of course, there. One reason for the shortfall is the grossly inadequate Plan allocation, particularly, at the State level. For example, in the first four years, only about 52,000 crores have been spent. The total Plan allocation is Rs. 79,589.32 crores. The States have spent only about Rs. 33,000 crores out of their total allocation of Rs. 48,407.74 crores. This is one reason. The second reason is—as the hon. Members know—environmental, rehabilitation and resettlement problems.

The environmental and other problems come in in the case of hydel power projects. As you know, there are some great environmentalists in the country. They raise certain questions. Due to this reason also, the progress of the projects is not good, is not to the extent expected.

In the case of the Tehri Project—1000 MW—and the Sardar Sarovar Project—1450 MW—the shortfall is due to the environmental, rehabilitation and resettlement problems.

There are certain projects which are delayed due to law and order problems. For example, the Dulhasti Hydroelectric Project—390 MW—and the Doyang Hydroelectric Project—325 MW. The delay in respect of these projects is due to law and order problems.

Lastly, contractual and equipment supply delays.

These are the reasons for the shortfall in capacity addition in the Eighth Plan. Then, about the low PLF. I would like to point out that the PLF of 63 per cent achieved in 1995-96 is the highest ever achieved. It has gone up to 63 per cent, compared to 57 per cent in 1991-92. The PLF of NTPC is about 80 per cent. However, the States' PLF is low because of inadequate funds as well as because of the small size of the plants. Also, these are older units. Besides, they suffer from poor liquidity and improper management practices. They have high levels of receivables. In addition to this, inadequate coal supplies also contributed to the low PLF.

5.00 P.M.

You will see that in 1992-93 the plant load factor in the Central sector was 62.7 per cent whereas in the State sector it was 54.1 per cent and 58 per cent in the private sector. And the all-India PLF was 57.1 per cent. You will also observe that in 1995-96 in the Central sector the PLF was 71 per cent whereas in the State sector it was 58 per cent and 72 per cent in the private sector. And the all-India PLF was 63 per cent. In the Central sector, especially the Central organisations are maintaining a good PLF and it is steadily increasing. Since 1992-93, we have achieved the highest ever PLF of 63 per cent during 1995-96. Our target for 1996-97 is more than 64 per cent.

The hon. Member, Shri S.B. Chavan, raised the question of imbalance between thermal and hydel mix. During the late 70's we had plenty of coal deposits and we promoted a number of coal-based thermal plants. We had set up the NTPC and NEEPCO in the late 70's. The capacity of NTPC stations is about 16,000 MW, and about 25 per cent of the total power generation in the country is done by the NTPC. Compared with thermal stations, hydel stations have a long gesta-

tion period and many of them are facing problems. Hon. Members, Shri Maheshwar Singh and Shri Gaya Singh also have referred to problems in the hydel sector. Many of them have been facing environmental and resettlement problems.

To encourage hydro generation, we are giving greater budgetary support for hydro stations and are also encouraging greater private participation, for which special incentives have been introduced.

Sir, the hon. Member also said that external assistance utilisation is not satisfactory. But I can say that external assistance utilisation by the Central agencies has been satisfactory — well above 95 per cent during the last four years. It is in the States that it has been a little lower, and the total utilisation is about 90 per cent of the budgeted figure. One of the main reasons for it was lack of counterpart funds with the State Governments, who are now being insisted upon by the Planning Commission to earmark funds every year for externally assisted projects at the time of Plan allocation.

Sir, most of the hon. Members raised the question of transmission and distribution losses. We reduced them by about two per cent in the last four years, but they are still quite high at 20 per cent. A major reason for the high technical losses is the extensive network of rural electrification in India, which is based on low tension lines. Such lines, compared to high tension lines, have higher losses. Also, inadequate investment in the transmission and distribution sector in the past, compared to generation, has also contributed to higher transmission and distribution losses because, as I have said, all these days we had concentrated on the generation side instead of the transmission side. When we compare the generation and distribution factors, if we spent one rupee on the generation side, we spent only 50 paise on the distribution side. This is also another reason which has contributed to higher transmission and distribution losses. Theft of electricity is a major contributory factor for the high level of transmission and distribution losses, particularly in the urban areas. Even though theft of electricity is being made a cognizable offence, it has had a limited impact since its enforcement has not been strict and the convictions have been very few.

Regarding DESU—most of the Members live in Delhi, which is the capital—nearly 40 per cent of the transmission and distribution losses are due to theft. I do not want to tell you how it is going on. But recently we discussed the problem with the DESU officials also and given them some instructions to increase the plant load factor and try to reduce the transmission and distribution losses. Also, DESU's financial position is very poor. We need to restructure DESU quickly and we have advised DESU to undertake it quickly, including private participation in distribution.

Sir, a question was asked as to why the target of 2,810 megawatts for the private sector in the Eighth Plan was not achieved. We introduced the policy in 1991.

Since 1991 we are having so many problems with different Electricity Boards regarding fixation of PPAs, and there are so many other problems. Learning from our experience, we are imposing a number of conditions, and we are streamlining our guidelines. One of the reasons for non-fulfilment is that it is a new experiment. Also PPAs were delayed. As multiple clearances were required, the clearances were delayed.

They have cricitised the CEA's role also. The hon. Members know that recently we increased the limit of the CEA up to Rs. 1,000 crores. The State Electricity Boards have to come through bidding. They are assisted by the State Governments. Previously 17 clearances were required from the CEA. Now only 11 permissions are required. We are

monitoring the CEA's functions. We are issuing new guidelines.

Hon. Chavanji raised a question about the Hajira Project and about the CEA's role. The CEA has to see the tariff. Previously, the CEA fixed a low rate. After the change of the Government, it fixed a high rate. The CEA approves only the capital cost. In the Question Hour also hon. Members raised the same question. I want to say that the CEA approves only the capital cost. The tariff is derived from the capital cost as per the two-part tariff notification. This is a ceiling tariff, but the State Government has the liberty, it is free to negotiate a lower tariff. The Gujarat State Electricity Board has given an assurance to the Central Electricity Authority and also the Central Government to fulfil the conditions regarding 3 per cent ROR and two months' receivables etc. The Project was cleared only after receiving the assurance. Chhabildas Mehtaji made some allegations, and he submitted a representation to the hon. Prime Minister also. The hon. Prime Minister endorsed it, and he has asked for some clarification from the CEA. We are waiting for the details.

Mr. Naunihal Singh raised the question about the import duty. In the recent Budget, the import duty on captive power plants has been proposed to be reduced to the same level as for IPPs and other public sector utilities, that is, from 75 per cent to 20 per cent *ad valorem*. The proposal has been included in the Budget. The transmission equipment will also now attract a lower percentage of duty, that is, 20 per cent as against 35 per cent earlier.

He has also raised the question that the private sector investment was tardy. He said that no private sector investment was coming. The private sector investment can increase only if the State Electricity Boards are viable and they are run commercially. For that the Electricity Boards require restructuring and remodelling. I think this month we are convening a meeting of all the Chief Ministers and all the Power Ministers. We want to discuss all the problems in the CMC.

He also mentioned about counter-guarantees. He mentioned that counter-guarantees should be speeded up. We are definitely making all efforts to speed up all the projects.

The CEA procedures have been streamlined. The number of clearances required have been reduced. Projects up to Rs. 1,000 crores have been exempted from the CEA's clearance. PPAs have to be finalised quickly. We have issued instructions that PPAs should be finalised quickly. Guidelines for PPA were circulated last year to all the State Electricity Boards and the State Governments. We are circulating to draft model PPA which is internationally viable. We are circulating it within one month.

Projects are being approved in a transparent manner. We have instructed the State Electricity Boards to see that IPPs come through competitive bidding only.

We have requested the State Electricity Boards to finalise fuel supply agreements quickly. We have taken the following steps for that purpose. Some fuel supply agreements have been finalised already. The Ministry of Coal and the Ministry of Railways are finalising a few more. International Consultants are finalising model fuel supply agreements which will soon be circulated.

About T&D looses, technically improved innovation equipment and practices are being introduced. For example, we have introduced all-alloy aluminium conductors, AAACs, energy-efficient agricultural motors, low-tension-less distribution system or minimum L.T. line system etc. Energy efficient transformers i.e. amorphous core transformers are being introduced.

Demand side management schemes, known as remote controlled load management schemes are also being introduced. Capacitators for improving the power factor in the system are being used.

Existing electricity operated pumpset rectification programmes are being used to increase the efficiency.

To encourage the above ideology, the Ministry of Power is approving pilot projects to the State Electricity Boards to gain experience and to understand the benefits of their use.

Shri Prem Chand Gupta raised a question about the regional imbalances in installed capacity and generation in Orissa and Bihar. NTPC has set up Kahalgaon in Bihar, Farakka in West Bengal and Talcher in Orissa. It has recently also taken over a station at Talcher in Orissa. We have relatively surplus energy in the Eastern Region.

Shri Dipankar Mukherjee with his experience in the power sector has raised a number of issues. Previously during the Question Hour also he had raised some important points. He had raised a question regarding the reasons for increase in cost of private power projects from the Seventh Plan to the Eighth Plan. I would like to inform him that high inflation at the end of the Seventh Plan period and devaluation of the Rupee at the beginning of the Eighth Plan led to this increase. Private power projects are planned on completed costs, whereas public sector projects are planned on start-up costs. Hence per-megawatt cost of a private power project looks higher than the cost of a public sector project. Higher interest rates also lead to higher cost during construction.

The hon. Member has also stressed the need, along with many other Members of the House, for an integrated energy policy. I would like to emphasise that the Government does have a clear energy policy on the subject, which is being followed since 1974, when the Energy Policy Committee had submitted its report. Those priorities continue even today and are relevant. Nevertheless, the Planning Commission has set up a new Committee, which is looking at it afresh.

I would also like to emphasise that we are very short of power and we need to use every possible and available fuel to produce more power, which is needed for ensuring higher level of social and economic development of the country.

Shri Dipankar Mukherjee has also raised a question about energy conservation measures. On the supply side we are undertaking the following measures:

(1) reducing auxiliary consumption; (2) reducing furnace oil; (3) reducing T&D losses; (4) introducing systems improvement; (5) time and day metering; (6) renovation and modernisation of TPS and (7) cogeneration.

It would lead to saving of about 2,500 megawatts on the supply side during the Eighth Plan.

Measures on the Demand side are:

(1) energy audits of industrial establishments and commercial undertakings; (2) technology improvement for reducing energy consumption; (3) targeting energy intensive industries like steel, cement, aluminium, paper and pulp; (4) setting up of targets for energy consumption in these industries; and (5) undertaking improved management practices. In this regard we have been organising training programmes for technical and managerial staff. Awareness programmes have also been introduced.

Energy conservation measures have been extended to small-scale industries also. Engery conservation measures under consideration in consultation with the State Governments are also in progress. I want to raise these points in the Chief Ministers' conference also.

Shri Dipankar Mukherjee has also emphasised on the strength, weakness, opportunity and threat (SWOT). I would like to deal with the issue of weaknesses of the State Electricity Boards pointed out by him. It is true that almost all the State Electricity Boards are financially weak, but the major reason for it is the tariff charged by our SEBs, particularly for the supplies to meet the demands of the agricultural sector. The Share of agriculture is increasing and it is now about 30 per cent of the total power supply. The recovery made from farmers is only about 20 paise per kilowatt out of the average cost of supply of Rs. 1.70 per kilowatt. SEBs are not allowed to fix the tariff themselves. State Governments do that keeping in view different considerations. Further whatever subsidy is given by the State Electricity Boards, the State Government are not able to reimburse them. Due to this State Electricity Boards are becoming unviable. We have also requested them to fix the tariff. In 1991, a meeting of the Chief Ministers was convened and it was decided that Re. 0.50 should be the minimum. This decision has not been implemented by many States. Only two or three States have implemented this decision. We are also requesting the State Electricity Boards to set up an independent regulatory body at the State level to fix the tariff.

The hon. Member has mentioned about the Enron project, its base load capacity and its peak capacity. In the monsoon months, the PLF is 86 per cent and in the non-monsoon months it is 9. per cent. The average is 90 per cent. The high PLF has been accepted due to shortage. In revised fares, one capacity is 740 MW in which the base load capacity is 660 MW. That is 80 per cent. Peaking capacity is at 80 MW. That is 18 per cent. After phase two, the total capacity has been raised to 2,184 MW in which the base load capacity is 82 per cent. Peaking capacity is 18 per cent. Base load is 82 per cent.

The hon. Member has also mentioned about the village electrification. It is true that he has raised a relevant question. We are now considering to change the definition of 'electrification of a village'. Once a new definition is accepted by the Government of India more work would be carried out in the initial period itself in the villages. Recently, the Minister of Power and myself addressed this problem to the Chief Ministers to seek their clarification. As soon as we receive proposals from the hon. Chief Ministers, we would keep this item in the agenda of the next meeting. We also want to change the definition. Previously what happened was that only one connection was given in the village and we termed it as electrifying the village 100 per cent. But they have neglected hamlets. Each village consists of 10 to 12 hamlets. They are unable to provide electricity to hamlets. So, we want to modify this definition. We want to include hamlets also under the REC. The REC is also monitoring it.

Dr. Naunihal Singh also raised a few points regarding environment consideration, naphtha-based power plants. These naphtha-based power plants have surfaced in India temporarily. It is an expensive fuel. Some State Electricity Boards have cleared some projects based on naphtha and sent them to us. We have referred them to the concerned Ministry. The concerned Ministry is examining them.

The hon. Member, Shri Kumar has mentioned the role of the CEA and also wanted to know as to how many projects have been cleared after introduction of privatisation. Some projects have been held up due to the CEA's non-clearance. Not only that, most of the projects have been held up in the State Electricity Boards due to non-fixation of the PPA by the State Governments and due to non-availability of environmental clearance. There is an adequate staff strength in the CEA to assess the viability of power schemes concerned with a particular area

with a view to have interaction. At the same time, we are also monitoring. Recently we have issued new guidelines to the CEA. I think that only 7 projects are pending with the CEA. Out of 7 projects 4 are hydro-electricity projects. In principle they have given clearance to most of the projects. They have cleared 164 or 194 projects in principle. But most of the projects have not fulfilled the techno-economic clearances.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: The Minister has not replied to my points.

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI: Mr. Narayanasamy, I am coming to your points.

I am coming to that, Sir. (*Interruptions*).

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): Have patience. You have put so many questions. Let the Minister reply.

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI: Coming to the point about the neglect of the North-East, to improve the power position in North-Eastern India, we have developed a number of projects. And we have set up the NEEPCO only for exploiting the resources of North-East India. Several transmission line projects have also been taken up in the region. We are giving priority to availing of assistance for the North-Eastern States, particularly from the Japan grant and also the Asian Development Bank. I have requested the State Governments concerned and the State Government representatives to improve their State Electricity Boards' structure because their performance is very unsatisfactory, not satisfactory.

Regarding the progress of the REC-financed schemes, in respect of the Kutir Jyoti Scheme, in the year 1995-96, the target was 6, 25,000 and the achievement, 5,17,057. The target was revised. The allocation was Rs.2500 lakhs, but disbursement was Rs. 2078 lakhs. As against the cumulative physical target of 22.2 lakhs, we have achieved 21.2 lakhs. Also, up to March, 1996, the allocation was Rs.7000 lakhs and the disbursement was Rs.6480 lakhs. In tribal areas, the physical achievement was 65,123. In Harijan bastis, it was 1,47,584. The Planning Commission had not been allocating specific funds or deciding targets separately for strengthening Harijan bastis, Dalit bastis or tribal areas. We are writing to the Planning Commission to take up the issue.

As for electrification of villages in the North-East, in Assam, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Meghalaya and Tripura, I will give the total figures. I can give the State-wise figures. But I do not want to take much time. The total inhabited villages were 34,878. Villages electrified as on 31.3.96 were 33,999. That is, about 88 per cent of the villages have been electrified.

As far as Himachal is concerned, 100 per cent electrification is there; in respect of J & K, it is 97 per cent; in Sikkim, it is 100 per cent. (*Interruption.*)

श्री महेश्वर सिंह: मंत्री महोदय कह रहे है कि हिमाचल प्रदेश में शत प्रतिशत विद्युतीकरण हो गया है। महोदय, यह सही नहीं है। आपका रिकार्ड बिल्कुल गलत है। जैसे कि यहां माननीय सदस्य ने कहा वहां स्थिति ऐसी है कि अगर एक जगह कहीं पोल भी खड़ा हुआ है भले ही वहां तार है या नहीं, आपके रिकार्ड में वह शत प्रतिशत इलेक्ट्रीफिकेशन है। इसलिए कृपा करके इसकी जांच कर लीजिए।

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI: I will explain. These figures have been provided by the State Electricity Boards. Their own State Electricity Boards have given the figures. Based on their reports only, we can explain. From the REC, we are providing 50 per cent. The other 50 per cent is provided by the State Electricity Boards. If the figures are wrong, I will call for the figures again from the State Electricity Boards. If the hon. Member knows any villages not electrified, he may give me the details. We will include them under the REC programmes or other programmes.

Smt. Urmilaben Patel, a former Minister, has given good suggestions. I fully agree with her that we should provide more funds for rural electrification. However, as has already gone on record, it is a matter for the State Government to take a view on. We help them from the REC. The lending operations depend on the return of the earlier loans by the States. Sir, as you know, to the Central sector, including the REC, Rs.10,000 crores is due from the States. Most of the State Government's are not paying their dues. For that reason, whatever we want to give through the REC, we are unable to provide. Through this forum, I request all the hon. Members from the States concerned to request their Chief Ministers and State Electricity Boards to pay the dues.

Regarding the shortage of coal, it is indeed becoming a constraint in increasing power generation. No doubt, we had shortage in the availability of coal, almost 20 million tonnes, in 1996-97,.....

Which is likely to grow in future. We are, therefore, encouraging the coastal States to import coal. We are conscious of the fact that coal mining within the country has to be increased. We have taken up the matter with the Ministry of Coal recently.

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: What about putting up of coal washeries in the coal mines?

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI: Recently, the hon. Prime Minister had convened a meeting of the Ministers and a High-Power Committee was also constituted to clear the pending projects. The Inter-Ministerial Committee is dealing with the Railway Ministry and the Enviroment and Forests Ministry. Recently, the Prime Minister gave instructions to Coal India to keep the washeries for Hindujas. The hon. Prime Minister has agreed on this point.

She referred to the transmission and distribution losses also. I agree with her on this point. We have to reduce the transmission and distribution losses and improve the quality of supply to the consumers. In order to make realisation of dues effective, we need to devise effective ways and means. We have to associate private parties in order to effectively tackle the problem of meter reading, billing and collection of dues. We should aim at smooth distribution of electricity without losses. Since independence, there has been no comprehensive policy to that effect in the Power Department. We want to convene a meeting of all the technocrats to get their suggestions. I would also request the hon. Members to send their suggestions in this regard so that I could incorporate them in the new energy policy. We want an amendment in the existing policy. We have no policy on the generation side. In the area of transmission also, we have no policy. We want to amend the existing Act. Mr. Maheshwar Singh laid stress on hydro power. For that purpose, in the Central Sector, we have NHPC, NTPC, THDC and NEEPCO to encourage the hydro power generation. We are giving maximum budget support for the hydro projects. We are also encouraging the private sector for hydro power generation with special incentives. *(Interruptions)*

श्री महेश्वर सिंह: महोदय, एक मिनट। एन० जे०पी०सी० के बारे में मैंने मंत्री महोदय एक बात कही कि इसकी स्थापना 1988 में की गई। प्रोजैक्ट का सारा कार्य क्षेत्र हिमाचल में है और आफिस यहां आपके वीर सिंह मार्ग में है और यह 1995 में यह निर्णय ले लिया गया है कि यह आफिस हिमाचल क्षेत्र में जाएगा। तो कृपया क्या ऐसे आदेश आप करेंगे कि तुरन्त वह चला जाए? दूसरी बात मैंने कही थी कि हिमाचल प्रदेश की सरकार ने एक बिल पारित करके भेजा है। वह अपने रिसोर्सेज़ को बढ़ाना चाहते है। उन्होंने उस बिल में यह प्रावधान किया है कि जो जेनरेशन वहां बिजली की है उस पर जेनरेशन टैक्स दस पैसे प्रति यूनिट वह लगाना चाहते हैं, जो कि उपभोक्ता को भी ज्यादा नहीं दुखेगा। तो क्या उसमें आप जल्दी से जल्दी यहां से उसकी स्वीकृति प्रदान करेंगे ताकि सरकार अपने रिसोर्सेज़ बढ़ा सके?

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI: From 1.11.95, the office has already been shifted to Shimla.

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: No, it has not been shifted. It is still here.

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI: It has been shifted. After you go from here, you confirm it from your constituency. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: It is only on paper.

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI: Since 1.11.95, all the Directors are functioning from Shimla. Previously, they were operating from Delhi.

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री मोहम्मद सलीम): महेश्वर जी, आपने अपना प्वायंट रखा ...**(व्यवधान)** मंत्री जी, यह सदन में बोल रहे हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**

डा॰ एस॰ वेणुगोपालाचारी: सिंह साहब, एक बार देख लीजिए।

Now, they are operating from Shimla. After this matter came to my notice, I gave the necessary directions.

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: You kindly check it up. The office is still here. It is only on paper. In fact, it has not been shifted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): Mr. Minister, you kindly check up that.

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI: Right, Sir. A question was raised about generation tax. My Ministry has cleared this proposal. *(Interruption)*

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री मोहम्मद सलीम): अब बहुत से प्रश्न बहुत से मैम्बस ने किए हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI: It is now pending with the Home Ministry. A question was raised about various projects. The MOU was signed by Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Kindly verify that. *(Interruptions)*

श्री मोहम्मद मसूद खान (उत्तर प्रदेश): दिल्ली में रहते है तो पसीने से भीग जाते है और गांव में जाते हैं तब भी पसीने में भीग जाते हैं।

†[شری محمد مسعود خاں: دلّی میں رہتے ہیں تو پسینے سے بھیگ جاتے ہیں اور گاؤں میں جاتے ہیں تب بھی پسینے سے بھیگ جاتے ہیں۔]

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री मोहम्मद सलीम): वह पावर की बात कर रहे हैं, एअर कंडीशन की बात नहीं कर रहे हैं।

श्री एस॰एस॰ अहलुवालिया: पंखा और एअर कंडीशन दोनों पावर ही से चलते हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI: ...and Delhi to develop the Parbati Valley Project. The Central Government was not consulted at the time of signing the MOU. Recently the hon. Minister approached me, Sir, and I think that they should now first sort out their inter-State differences. Regarding the Himachal Pradesh Project, it is already on record, Sir. ...*(interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): It is better if you go from Himachal Pradesh to Pondicherry.

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI: Some Members raised an issue concerning the national Energy Efficiency Programme. The Planning Commission has fixed a target of 5000 MW saving in power consumption and six million tonnes in petroleum products by the terminal year of the Eighth Five Year Plan; 5000 MW consisted of 2250 MW on supply side for improving power station efficiency, reducing T&D losses and auxiliary consumption. Regarding the demand side management, various programmes are being undertaken for energy efficiency on demand side and end-use consumption. Large sums of money are also being spent on improving the systems and specific transmission systems.

†] Transliteration in Arabic Script.

Narayanasamygaru raised ...*(interruptions)*... He is from the southern State; that is why I am using this. Narayanasamyji ...*(interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): Say 'Thiru Narayanasamy'!

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI: Thiru Narayanasamy pointed out that some projects are delayed for want of clearance. He criticised the role of CEA. All the counter-guarantees projects have been given techno-economic clearances by the CEA and steps are being taken for giving counter-guarantees also. Not a single proposal is pending with the CEA for fast track counter-guarantee projects.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Projects are pending now. Where are they pending for clearance now?

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI: For fast track projects they have given the principal clearance. They are at the Finance, Defence levels. Recently he raised the issue of a Pondicherry project. The Minister and senior officials of Pondicherry had met me recently and I called the Chairman of CEA and BHEL for the meeting. The Pondicherry gas based power projects-related issues were discussed and were fully resolved to the satisfaction of the Pondicherry Government and we had given the clearance. For that the hon. Minister also agreed.

Regarding the action taken by the present Government, the Government has taken a number of initiatives to improve the private power policy. Speedy implementation of the policy is the need of the hour and I think that we have taken many steps. There is a shortage of power and new capacities must come up early. A monitoring committee has also been appointed under the Chairmanship of my Principal Secretary to ensure early inter-Ministerial clearances and I have requested the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission to ensure early finalisation of a comprehensive national energy policy. In addition to that, additional capacities can only be put up after monopoly purchases of electricity are restructured in a manner that they work on a commercial basis. I have asked for early implementation for reform measures for the State Electricity Boards. Till the SEBs are viable, IPP will ask for comfort arrangements to be worked out for ensuring payment of energy charges etc. And we are also setting up captive generation. For captive generation—so many hon. Members have raised this point—whatever the megawatt generation is, if they want to keep up the project, they need not come to the CEA. They have already given the instructions to all the State Electricity Boards and the State Governments.

Shri Ramachandra Reddy from Andhra Pradesh raised an issue pertaining to only Andhra Pradesh. Only one project is pending with the DPR, that is Pulichintala Project 2×30 MW Hydro Station. It is under examination of the CEA and I have asked the CEA authorities to clear it immediately. Sir, It was only in the month of June, 1996 that we received the DPA and that is examined by the CEA. So, it is not correct that a number of Andhra Pradesh power projects are pending in the CEA. Recently we have given the clearance for the GVK 200 to 215 MW project and we have also given the counter-guarantee. ...*(interruptions)*...For Hinduja we have not given, but we are going to give.

Shri Joy Nadukkara raised the issue of giving early clearance for the Pooyamkutty Project and also for the Kalada Project.

As regards the Pooyamkutty project—I think the hon. Minister for Environment and Forests is here—the concerned Minister and I have discussed it in the Minister's chamber. The Minister has agreed to set up a new committee to go into the issue. The project is under the consideration of the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

Regarding the Kallada project, it has already been commissioned. There are

two units. One unit was commissioned in November 1993 and the other was commissioned in July 1994. This is for information.

Shri Brahmakumar Bhatt, who has got so much of experience, has raised the issue of restructuring the State Electricity Boards and the transmission losses. I fully agree with him. He has put a relevant question whether the funds could be given directly to the State Electricity Boards. I don't know whether we could do it. We are calling a meeting of the Chief Ministers and Power Ministers. We will include this point in that meeting. We will take the consensus of the Chief Ministers. They have go agree.

SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: They wouldn't agree to give funds directly to the State Electricity Boards. You have to enforce it.

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI: As the hon. Member has said, it is a concurrent subject.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: You have to see whether your Left Front partner agrees to it.

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI: It is a concurrent subject where the State Government and the Central Government are involved.

Regarding the Budget allocation, Mr. Parmeshwar Agarwalla has raised the issue that against the allocation of Rs. 1,972 crores last year, in 1996-97 the allocation is Rs. 1,609 crores.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): He has already left. It is better not to quote him.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: He has to answer whether the Member is present or not.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): He is answering.

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI: Many points have been raised by the hon. Members. Finally I want to emphasize that we want to utilise each and every possible source, whether hydel or thermal. We want to invite suggestions from the hon. Members. So many projects are politicised. When one Government comes to power it clears one project and when another Government comes to power it clears another project. I would request all the MPs not to politicise the power sector. All of us together should try to increase our power generation. With these words I conclude. Thank you.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA (Karnataka): Sir, I have carefully listened to the reply of the Minister of Power. I was trying to link it to the statements of the Prime Minister. I have to say that I am disappointed. The Prime Minister is day in and day out saying that he is giving more emphasis to agriculture. He has brought the Ganga Kalyan Scheme from Karnataka to Delhi. What is the fate of the Ganga Kalyan Scheme? (*Interruptions*)... He has brought the Ganga Kalyan Scheme from Karnataka to Delhi. He has announced that the Ganga Kalyan Scheme will be taken up. What is the Ganga Kalyan Scheme? It is a scheme for boring a well in a Scheduled Caste land and energising it. Last month I reviewed the progress of Ganga Kalyan Scheme in my district. Three hundred and forty-three wells had been dug in the last two years. Not a single pole has reached the wells. Digging a borewell is not Ganga Kalyan. Ganga is inside a Kalyan is outside. Power is not available. Similarly, in the case of agriculture in my own district 10,000 applications for energising borewells are pending. The capicity of KSEB is 1,500 megawatt per year. It will take another ten years to clear the 10,000 applications plus the additions. So, on this aspect I want the Minister to announce some crash programme to link it to the Prime Minister's announcement in favour of the farmers. I would like to know his reaction. Secondly, a statement has come on record that the Planning Commission has not cleared the plans for the Dalit

bastis. The Minister has to go back to the Planning Commission. It is a wrong statement which has come out that the Planning Commission has not sanctioned them. You have to propose them in your Budget, then the Planning Commission will give you permission. That has gone on record. I want an assurance from the Minister that he will go back to the Planning Commission.

My last point is this. He is the Energy Minister. Almatti includes generation of power...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: It is not there. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Just a minute. What I know I am saying. Let him say, "No". *(Interruptions)*.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): Don't bring Almatti into it. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Sir, the Almatti project includes power generation. Will he...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, even the Almighty has not promissed them...*(Interruptions)*...power generation. It is a violation of the Krishna Water Dispute....*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Sir, she has studied in Karnataka. But she does not know anything about Karnataka. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: There is no provision for power generation at Almatti. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Sir, I am talking to the Minister. *(Interruptions)*.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): Shri John F. Fernandes.

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES (Goa): Sir, I appreciate the policy of the Government to invite investment into the core sector, i.e. the power sector. The Minister has talked about jet turbine based on nephtha fuel. Certain companies are collaborating with foreign companies. They are setting up jet turbine which is a small machine which can be set up in a garage. They want to use naphtha for years together. The State Government of Goa is trying to have an agreement with a foreign company for naphtha. When you use such a small machine, there is no investment. They will sell power and take foreign exchange. They will use naphtha which is very expensive. I would like to know from the Minister whether they will discourage such power units which do not invest in the core sector. I would like to know whether they will be discouraged to use naphtha for a longer period of time. If it is permitted for one year, I can understand. If licences are given to such units for 15 years for stop-gap arrangement, it will be a total waste of money.

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): Not to speak, but to seek clarifications.

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Yes, Sir. The hon. Minister has dealt with regional imbalance. As far as power capacity is concerned, the Minister has said that they have set up one power plant in Bihar. Sir, setting up a power plant of 220 megawatts in 20 years is not a justification. As I mentioned yesterday, I am not against any State. But I would like to place some figures before the House. Maharashtra has 10,027 megawatts of installed capacity. Uttar Pradesh has 6,047 megawatts, Gujarat has 5,328 megawatts and Bihar has only 1,768 megawatts. You can see how the regional imbalance is being justified by the hon. Minister. We have the largest coal stock. Our coal is being carried all over the country. Why not we set up mega power plants at coal pithead so that

there is no wastage of coal and no cost is involved in it?

My second point is this. So far as hydel power plants are concerned, the Minister has said that there is a serious problem from environment and forest side. So far as hydel power plant is concerned, it is a one-time investment. In some States there are certain problems regarding environment clearance and rehabilitation. Sir, The whole north-east part of the countrty is flooded with water resources. A lot of hydel projects can be taken up in this area. In 1995-96, only 147.05 megawatts capacity was added in the hydel sector. The target was only 421 megawatts. How is the Minister justifying it? There is a total imbalance between hydel capacity and thermal capacity. We have sufficient water resources in Bihar. Why should we not explore these resources? This is my submission. The policy should be looked into and it should be reviewed. I know the hon. Minister has spent only 102 days in the office. It is high time we reviewed this policy. Thank you.

श्री गया सिंह: उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मंत्री जी ने जो जवाब दिया है, उसके संदर्भ में मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि कहलगांव में 2800 मैगावाट का प्लांट है, सैक्शंड है, जमीन ले ली गई है, ऐक्वायर कर ली गई है लेकिन 800 मैगावाट के बाद उसका एक्सपैंशन प्रोग्राम बंद कर दिया गया है। मंत्री जी को शायद इसकी जानकारी नहीं है।

श्री मोहम्मद मसूद खान: मोहतरम, मैं खाली एक बात कहना चाहता हूं। मैं दिल्ली के घर में जाता हूं तो वहां पावर नहीं है, आजमगढ़ में जाता हूं तो वहां पावर नहीं है। तकरीर तो न गया सिंह की समझ में आ रही है, न हमारी समझ में आ रही है जब तक कि पावर पर इतना कंट्रोल न हो जाए कि दिल्ली के घर में जाऊं तो वहां बिजली फेल न हो और गांव के घर में जाऊं तो वहां बिजली फेल न हो। जब तक ऐसा नहीं होगा, तब तक तकरीर समझ में नहीं आएगी।

میں جاتا ہوں تو وہاں پاور نہیں ہے۔ اعظم گڑھ
جاتا ہوں تو وہاں پاور نہیں ہے۔ تقریر تو
نہ گیا سنگھ کی سمجھ میں آ رہی ہے نہ
ہماری سمجھ میں آ رہی ہے۔ جب تک کہ
پاور پر اتنا کنٹرول نہ ہو جائے کہ دلی کے
گھر میں جاؤں تو وہاں بجلی فیل نہ ہو اور
گاؤں کے گھر میں جاؤں تو وہاں بجلی فیل
نہ ہو۔ جب تک ایسا نہ ہوگا۔ تب تک
تقریر سمجھ میں نہیں آئیگی۔

H شری محمد مسعود خاں: محترم۔ میں خالی
ایک بات کہنا چاہتا ہوں۔ میں دلی کے گھر

SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: In Janunary, 1993, there was a Power Ministers Conference. A decision was taken and it was announced by the Government. It was said that the Government would appoint a committee to consider the national fuel policy. The committee has still not been appointed. Will the Government think of appointing a committee to look into the national fuel policy as decided in the Power Ministers Conference in January, 1993?

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI: Regarding the Ganga-Kalyan project, I would say that it is with the Water Resources Ministry. It is not with my Ministry ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: I am talking of power ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI: Regarding pending agriculture pumps which the hon. Members raised, I would say that the States are not allocating funds.

Due to inadequate funds, energisation of pumps could not take place. In Bihar, a power project at Nabinagar, with a capacity of 2000 MW has been entrusted to the private sector. We had advertised

in the papers. That will be coming up soon ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA (Bihar): The private sector is unable to implement the project. How does he expect the private sector to invest Rs. 8,000 crores in Nabinagar? Unless the NTPC takes it up, this project will never be implemented. It can be implemented on paper only. It cannot be implemented in reality ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI: The IDBI has come forward and has agreed to all the conditions of the State Electricity Board. We had advertised in the papers. This will be coming up soon.

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: I read the advertisement in the newspaper. But I want an assurance from the hon. Minister.

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI: I am assuring the hon. Member that the project will come up soon. Regarding hydel projects, I would say that we are giving high priority to hydel projects. We have also constituted a committee to look into this. The Government is also keen on exploiting hydel power. More funds have been allocated for the hydel projects in the Budget also. An hon. Member said something about the Energy Committee. This has been constituted by the Planning Commission. Discussions are already going on. Regarding Almatti, only in principle clearance has been given. The CEA only gives an in-principle clearance. There is a problem between the two States. Only after that is sorted out, can we give the final clearance.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): Now we will take up the Half-an-Hour discussion.

श्री राघवजी (मध्य प्रदेश): सर, जीरो आँवर मैशन और स्पैशल मैशन का क्या हुआ?

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री मोहम्मद सलीम): अभी तो 5 बजे के लिए हाफ-एन-आँवर डिस्कशन लिस्टेड था। हमने हाऊस की राय ली, मंत्री जी का जवाब पौने पांच बजे शुरू हुआ और यह तय हुआ कि इसके खत्म होने के बाद हाफ-एन-आवर डिस्कशन लिया जाएगा। अब इसके बाद अगर आप बैठना चाहते हैं तो स्पैशल मैशन है, मिनिस्ट्री ऑफ स्टील की वर्किंग पर डिस्कशन है। आप बोलिए, हाफ-एन-आँवर डिस्कशन के बाद और क्या-क्या लेना चाहते हैं?

श्री राघव जी: हाफ-एन-आँवर सपेशल मेंशन से पहले कर लीजिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (West Bengal): Sir, this Half-an-Hour Discussion is not likely to be for half-an-hour alone. It is likely to be more than that. After that, if you will allow Special Mentions also, then we have the Discussion on the Ministry of Steel and Mines. This House has never dicussed it at least in the last ten years. So, I would suggest that this may kindly be taken up tomorrow or the day after tomorrow because we cannot start this discussion at 7.30 p.m.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): Even if we take up this discussion, we cannot finish it today. We have to continue it tomorrow or the day after tomorrow. You want to discuss it but you don't want to sit for long.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL (Rajasthan): I agree with Dr. Das Gupta. The discussion on Steel and Mines cannot be started after 7 O' clock. But it cannot be listed for tomorrow because we have other business already listed. Let the Chairman decide it in the morning.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: We are suggesting to the Vice-Chairman, Mr. Agarwal, that the Chairman should kindly be requested to allow time for it at least on Thursday.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): Thank you for the suggestion. If the sense of the House is that we should take up Special Mentions after the Half-an-Hour Discussion is over, we will take it up.

SHRI RAGHAVJI: After that, there is no point in taking up Special Mentions.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD SALIM): Okay, thank you.

Now we take up the Half-an-Hour Discussion. Shri Maheshwar Singh.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

On Points Arising out of the Answer Given in the Rajya Sabha on the 11th July, 1996 to Unstarred Question 64 Regarding Great National Himalayan Park in Kullu

श्री महेश्वर सिंह (हिमाचल प्रदेश): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, आपकी अनुमति से कुल्लू में ग्रेट नेशनल हिमालयन पार्क के सम्बन्ध में 11 जुलाई, 1996 को इस माननीय सदन में पूछे गए अतारांकित प्रश्न संख्या-64 के दिए गए उत्तर से उत्पन्न मुद्दों पर चर्चा करने के लिए खड़ा हुआ हूं। महोदया, कुल्लू जिला के दुर्गम क्षेत्र सैंज घाटी और तीर्थन घाटी को मिला कर नेशनल पार्क बनाने का निर्णय इसलिए लिया गया था क्योंकि यहां पर 300 से अधिक वन्य पक्षियों की जातियां और लगभग 30 वन्य पशुओं जातियों की आबादी उपलब्ध है।

इस संदर्भ में प्रथम नोटिफिकेशन 1972 में हुआ। तत्पश्चात् 1-3-84 को पुनः एक नोटिफिकेशन हुआ जिसमें सैंज घाटी और तीर्थन घाटी का सारा क्षेत्र लिया गया। उसमें क्षेत्रफल अंकित नहीं था लेकिन यह स्पष्ट था कि इस पार्क में चार गांव होंगे जिनके नाम—कुंडर, मझारा, शाक्टी और मुरोड़। इसके बाद 30-7-90 को एक और नोटिफिकेशन जारी हुआ जिसमें इसका सारा क्षेत्रफल 620 किलोमीटर बताया गया। अब मुझे नहीं पता कि क्या कारण है कि फिर 22-2-94 को पुनः नोटिफिकेशन निकाला गया जिसमें इसका क्षेत्रफल बढ़ाकर 765 किलोमीटर कर दिया गया। लेकिन जो पहले चार गांव इस नोटिफिकेशन में थे उसमें से दो गांव शाक्टी और मुरोड़ निकाले गए। इसके अतिरिक्त पार्वती घाटी का एरिया इसमें डाला गया और जो दो गांव निकाले गए उसके क्षेत्रफल को एक सैंज के नाम से सेंच्यूअरि बनाया गया। आज इस पार्क के नोटिफिकेशन को हुए बारह वर्ष बीत गए लेकिन मुझे बड़े खेद से कहना पड़ता है कि नोटिफिकेशन के सिवाय इस ओर और कोई भी कार्रवाई नहीं हुई। जबकि इस प्रोजेक्ट में जितने वित्तीय संसाधन है वह वर्ल्ड बैंक के ए०डी०ओ० प्रोजेक्ट से है। इन नोटिफिकेशन के अलावा कुछ नहीं मिला और दूसरे, मेरी समझ में यह बात नहीं आई कि पहले आपने चार गांव के लिए नोटिफिकेशन की और अब अगर दो गांव निकाल भी देंगे तो वह एरिया तो सारा पार्क का रहेगा और फिर वहां के लोग अपनी आजीविका कैसे कमाएंगे। चारों तरफ जंगली जानवर और उसके बीच में वह कैसे रह सकते हैं, यह मेरी समझ से बाहर है।

महोदय, इस समस्या को लेकर उस ग्रामीण क्षेत्र के लोग 18.7.95 को यहां पूर्व मंत्री से भी मिले लेकिन आश्वासन के सिवाय हमें कुछ नहीं मिला और मैं आठ-नौ बार इस संबंध में प्रश्न पूछ चुका हूं पर एक ही जवाब मिलता है कि गांव के रीहैबिलिटेशन के बारे में तो हिमाचल सरकार ने निर्णय लेना है। वह वे निर्णय लेंगे तब हम आगे कार्यवाही करेंगे। जब भी पार्क बनते हैं, जिस क्षेत्र में विकास होता है, वहां स्थानीय लोगों को कुछ समस्याओं का सामना भी करना पड़ता है जिसके लिए वे तैयार रहते हैं लेकिन बदले में उनको कम्पनसेट करना जरूरी है जैसे विस्थापितों को बसाना। 1984 के नोटिफिकेशन के मुताबिक आपने चार गांवों को नोटिफाई किया। इनकी कुल आबादी कितनी है? केवल दो सौ। इन चार छोटे-छोटे गांवों की कुल संख्या दो सौ त्र शक्ति मरौर में सिर्फ 19 परिवार और 54 बीघे और 4 बिस्वा ज़मीन है। कुन्डर माझन में 33 परिवार है, 88 बीघे और 19 बिस्वा जमीन है।

1984 में ही ए०डी०एम० कुल्लू को कलैक्टर फोरेस्ट का दर्जा दिया गया। उनको कहा गया कि इनके रीहैबिलिटेशन के केस आप सेटल करेंगे और मुझ द्वारा अतारांकित प्रश्न संख्या 1965 दिनांक 2 अगस्त, 96 को आपने माना है कि कुल मिला कर 20.10 लाख रुपया हिमाचल सरकार को इसलिए दिया गया कि इन गांवों के लोगों को रीहैबिलिटेट किया जाए। जगह का आईडेंटिफिकेशन हो गया, सब कुछ हो गया लेकिन आज तक एक फूटी कौड़ी भी हिमाचल सरकार इस पैसे को खर्च नहीं कर सकी। यह पैसा ज्यों का त्यों पड़ा है। लोगों की समस्याएं बड़ी है लेकिन लोगों को रीहैबिलिटेट करने की तरफ हिमाचल सरकार ने कोई भी ध्यान नहीं दिया जबकि लोगों ने अपनी सहमति तक उस जगह के लिए दे दी थी। मजबूर हो कर आप कहेंगे कि शाक्टी मरोड़ के लोग अब वहां से उठना नहीं चाहते, उन उनकी मजबूरी है क्योंकि बदले में आपने उनको कुछ नहीं दिया। 10-12 वर्षों से केवल यह प्रावधान करके पैसा छोड़ दिया।

एक अन्य प्रश्न के उत्तर में आपने 9 अगस्त, 95 को एक बात कही है, उसकी तरफ आपका ध्यान में ले जाना चाहूंगा कि "ग" भाग में आप कहते हैं—"इस